

THE
BACHELERS
Banquet:

OR

*A Banquet for Bachelers: Wherein is prepared
sundry daintie Dishes to furnish their Tables,
curiously drest, and seriously served in.*

Pleasantly discoursing the variable humors
of Women, their quicknesse of wittes,
and vnsearchable deceits.

*View them well, but taste not.
Regard them well, but waste not.*



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The Batchelars Banquet,

Or a Banquet for Batchelars: wherein is prepared sundry dishes to furnish their Table:

Curiously drest, and seriously
serued in.

CHAP. I.

The humor of a young wife new married.

It is the naturall inclination of a young gallant, in the pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing youth, being fresh, lusty, iocund, so take no other care, but to imploy his money to buy gay presents for pretty Lasses, to frame his green wits in penning lone ditties, his voice to sing them sweetly, his wandring eyes to gaze one the fairest dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot meanes for the speedy accomplishment of his wished desires, according to the compasse of his estate. And albeit his parents or some other of his kindred, doe perhaps furnish him with necessary maintenance, so that he wants nothing, but liues in all ease and delight, yet cannot this content him, or satisie his vnderperienced mind: for although he dayly see many married men, first lapt in lobbes pound, wanting former libertie, and compassed round in a cage of many cares, yet notwithstanding being over-ruled by selfe will, and blinded by folly: he suppose them therein to haue the fullnes of their delight, because they haue so neare them the Image of content, Venus starre gloriously
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blazing vpon them, I meane a daintie faire wife, brauely attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for, (howsoever to draw their husbands into a soles paradise) they make him beleue, that their father or mother haue of their cost and bounty afforded it. This lustie youth (as I earst said) seeing them already in this maze of bitter sweetnes, he goes round about, forniyoling himselfe in seeking an entrance, and taking such paines to finde his owne paine, that in the end, in he gets, when for the hault he makes, to haue a taste of these supposed delicates, he hath no leisure to thinke, or no care to provide those things that are hereunto requisite. The iolly yonger being thus gotten in, both for a time swim in delight, and hath no desire at all to wind him selfe out againe, till time and use, which makes all things more familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humor, then glutted with facietie, or pinched with penury, he may perhaps begin to see his follie, and repent as well his fondnes, as his too much forwardeNES, but all too late, he must haue patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degree, and withall commonly it happes the carie the right stomacke of a woman: tender maintenance will not serue, for as their mindes mount above their estates, so commonly wil they haue their abilliments. And if at a least or some other gossips meeting wherunto she is invited, she see any of the companie gaily attyred for cost, or fashion, or both, & chiefly the latter, so generally women do affect nouelties, she forthwith moues a question in her selfe, why she also should not be in like sort attyred, to haue her garments cut after the new fashion as well as the rest, and answers it with resolution, that she will, and must haue the like: Awaiting onely fit times and place, for the moning and winning of her husband thereto, of both which she will make such choice, that when she speaks she will be sure to speake: obseruing her opportunitie when she might take her husband at the most advantage, which is commonly in the bed, the garroine of loue, the state of marriage delights, & the life wherin the weaker sex hath euer the better: when therefore this lustie gallant would ~~performe~~ his

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his desired pleasures, for which cause he chiefly ran wilfully into the perill of Lobs pound, then squeamishly she begins thus, saying: I pray you husband let me alone, trouble me not, for I am not well at ease: which he hearing presently makes this reply. Why my sweet hart what ailes you, are you not well? I pray the wife tell me, where lies thy grieve? or what is the cause of your discontent: whereupon the vile woman fetching a deepe sigh, makes this answer. O husband God help me, I haue cause enough to grieve, and if you knew all you would say so: but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, seeing that whatsoeuer I say, you make but light reckning of it: and therefore it is best for me to bury my sorowes in silence, being out of hope to haue any help at your hands. Iesus wife (saith he) why vlie you these wordes, is my unkindnes such that I may not knowe your griefes? tell me I say what is the matter: In truth husband it were to no purpose, for I knowe your custome well enough, as for my wordes, they are but wast wind in your eares, for how great soeuer my grieve is, I am assured you will but make light of it, and thinke that I speake it for some other purpose.

Goe for wife, saith her husband, tell it me, for I wil know it. Well husband, if you will needs, you shall know on Thursday last, I was sent for, and you willed me to goe to Mistresse M. churching, and when I came thither I found great cheare, & no small companie of wiues, but the meanest of them all was not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neuer so ashamed of my selfe in my life, yet I speak it not to praise my selfe: but it is well knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there came of no better stocke then I. But alas I speake not this for my selfe, for God wot I passe not how meanely I am apparelled, but I speake it for your credit & my friends. Why wife, saith he, of what calling & degree were those you speak of? Truly good husband (saith she) the meanest that was there, being but of my degree, was in her gowne with franch liewes, her wardingale, her tuckie grograin kirtle, her tasset hat with a gold band, and these with the rest of her attire, made of the newest fashion, which is

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knowe the best : whereas I wore twetche had on my threds
 bare gowne, which was made me so long agoe, against I was
 married, besides that it was now too shott for me, for it is I re-
 member since it was made aboue thye yeares agoe , since
 which time I am growne very much , and so changed with
 cares and griefes , that I looke farre older then I am : Trust
 me I was so ashamed , being amongst my neighbours , that
 I had not the heart to looke vp, but that which greued me most
 was, when mistresse Lucc. B and mistres T. say openly that it
 was a shame both for you and me , that I had no better appa-
 rell. Eush wife (quoth the good-man) let them say what they
 list , we are neuer a whit the wozle for their woords , we haue
 enough to doe with our money though we spend it not in ap-
 parell : you knowe wife when we met together , we had no
 great stoze of household stufte, but were faine to buy it afterward
 by some and some, as God sent money, and yet you see we want
 many things that is necessary to be had : besides the quarter
 day is nere, and my Landlozd you know will not forbear his
 rent : mozeouer you see how much it costs me in law about the
 recouering of the Tenement which I should haue by you, God
 send me to get it quickly, or els I shall haue but a bad bargaine
 of it, for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth.
 At these woords his wiues collar begins to rise , whereupon
 she makes him this answere. Thus God (saith she) when you
 haue nothing else to hit me in the teeth withall , yett twit me
 with the Tenement: but it is my fortune. Why how now wife
 saith her husband, are you now angry for nothing? Nay I am
 not angry , I must be content with that which God hath or-
 dained for me : but 'twas the time was , when I might haue
 bene better aduised , there are some yett living that would haue
 bene gladd to haue me in my smock , whom you know well e-
 nough, to be proper young men , and therewithall wise and
 wealthy, but I verily suppose I was bewitcht to match with a
 man that loues me not , though I purchased the ill will of all
 my friends for his sake , this is all the good that I haue gotten
 thereby : I may truly say I am the most vnhappy woman in
 the

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the two; doe you thinke that Law. Tom & N.M. (who were both sisters to me) doe keepe their wines so : no by coths body, for I know the worst cloathes that they cast off, is better then my very best, which I weare on the cheifest dayes in the yere: I know not what the cause is that so many good women die, but I would to God that I were dead too, that I might not trouble you no more, seeing I am such an eie soze vnto you. Now by my faith wife saith he, you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke too good for you, if my abillitie can compasse it. But you knowe our estate, we must doe as we may, & not as we would, yet be of good cheare, and turne to me, and I will straine my selfe to please you, in this or any other thing. Nay for Gods sake let me alone, I haue no mind on such matters, and if you had no more desire therto then I, I promise you, you wou'd neuer such me. So wife (saith he) hoping so with a iell to make her mery, by my honestie I sweare, I verily thinke that if I were dead, you would not be long without another husband. So maruaile sure saith she, I lead such a good life with you now. By my chistian soule I sweare, there should neuer man kisse my lipps againe. And if I thought I should liue long with you, I would vse meanes to make my selie away: herewithall she puts finger in the eye making shew as though she wept. Thus plaies she with the sillie sot her husband (meaning nothing lesse then to doe as she saies) while he paye soe is in mind both wel and ill apaisd, he thinks himselfe well, because he imagines her of a cold constitution, and therefore exceeding chaste: he thinks himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, for that he verily supposes she lones him, which doth not a little greene him, being so kind and tender hearted. Therefore he useth all meanes possible to make her quiet, neither wil he giue her ouer, till he hath effected it. But the prosecuting her former purpose, which she hath already set in so faire a forwardnes, makes as though she were nothing moued with his gentle perswasions; Therefore to crosse him, she gets her vp betimes in the morning, sooner a great deale then she was wont, prouting and lolzing all the day, & not giuing him one good word. But when night comes,
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and they againe both in bed, laying her selfe softly downe, and continuing still silent, the good man harkens whether she sleep or no, feels if she be wel covered or not, he softly plucks vp the cloaths vpon her, lapping her warme, being double diligent to please her. & he lying all this while twinkling, noting his kindnes and carefulnes towards her, saimes on a suddaine to awake from a sound sleepe, grunting and nolling vnder the sheets, giving him occasion thereby thus to begin. **W**ho now swet hart, what are you a sleepe? **A** sleepe (saith she) **I** saith sir no: a troubled mind can neuer take good rest. **W**hy woman are you not quiet yet? **S**o doubt (saith she) you care much whether **I** be or no. **M**y lady wife, and so **I** doe: and since yesternight **I** haue be thought me (having well considered your words) that it is very meete and requisite, that you should be better furnished with apparell then heretofore you haue bene, for indeed **I** must confesse thy cloaths are too simple. And therefore **I** mean against my cousin M. wedding (which you know wil be shortly) that you shall haue a new gowne, made on the best fashion, with all things futable thereunto, in such sort that the best woman in the parish shall not passe you. **S**ay (quoth she) **G**od willing **I** mean to go to no weddings this twelue moneths, for the goodly credit **I** got by the last. **M**y my faith (saith he) but you shall: what you must not be so headstrong and selfe-will. **I** tell you if **I** say the word, you shall goe, and you shall want nothing that you aske or require. **W**hat **I** aske: alas husband (quoth she) **I** aske nothing, neither did **I** speake this for any desire that **I** haue to goe byzane: trust me for mine owne part **I** care not if **I** neuer stirre abroad, save onely to church: but what **I** said was vpon the speeches which were there used, and such other like words, which my gossip N. told me that she had also heard in company where she was. **W**ith these words & good kind soles her husband is nettled, so on the one side he considers his sundry other occasions to vse money, and his small store thereof, which is perhaps so slender, that his single purse cannot extempore change a double pisselet. And so ill belised is he of household stuffe, that perhaps the third part is not a sufficient

Not she for
twentic pound
good woman

pepune

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patunes for so much money, as this new suite of his wines will stand him in. But on the other side he waighes her discontent, the report of neighbours speeches, and lastly, how good a wife he hath of her: how chaste, how louing, how religious, whereof the kind Ake hath such an opinion, that he thankes God with all his heart, for blessing him with such a Jewell: In this thought he resolues that all other things set aside, he must and will content her. And herewithall he sets his bzaines a fresh on worke, to consider how best he may compasse it: And in this humoꝝ he spends the whole night without sleepe, in continuall thought. And it comes to passe that the wife perceiuing to what a point she hath brought her purpose, doth not a little reioyce and smile in her sleeue to see it. The next morning by the break of day the poore man gets vp, who for care and thought could take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Drapers, of whom he takes up cloth for thre moneths time, paying for it after an exteꝛdine rate, by reason of their soꝛbearance, and in like sort makes pꝛouision for the rest; or perhaps because he would buy it at a better rate, he patunes for readie mony the lease of his house, or some faire peece of plate (which his grandfather bought, and his father charitably keeping) left for him, which now he is enforced to part with, to furnish thereby his wines pride: and hauing thus dispatched his busines, he returnes home with a merrie heart, and shewes his wife what he had done: who being now sure of all, begins to curse the first inventoꝛs of pride, and excesse in apparell: saying, Fye vpon it, what pride is this: but I pray you husband, doe not say hereafter, that I made you lay out your mony in this needles sort, for I protest that I haue no delight or desire to goe thus garishly: If I haue to coner my body and keepe me warme it contents me. The good man hearing his wife say so, doth euen leape for ioy, thinking all her wordes Gospell, and therefore presently he sets the Tayloꝝ a worke, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may be bꝛaue so soone as may be. She hauing thus obtained her purpose, doth inwardly triumph for very ioy, howsoeuer outwardly she doth dissimble. And whereas before she haunted, that she could find

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in her heart to keepe alwaies within doores, she will be sure
now euery good day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Gos-
sips meeting to be a continuall guest, that all may see her
bzaunterie, and how well she doth become it, for which cause
she also comes euery Sunday daily to the Church, that there
she may see and be seene, which her husband thinks she doth
of mere deuotion. But in the meane while the time runs
on, and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay
his creditors, which being vnable to doe, he is at length
arrested, and after due proceeding in law, he hath an execu-
tion serued vpon him, or else his pawne is forfeited, and by
either of both he is almost utterly vndone. When must his
fine wife of force baile her peacocke plumes, and fall againe
to her old byas, keeping her house against her will, because
she could not be furnished with gay attire according to her
minde. But God knoweth in what miserie the little man
doth liue, being daily vexed with her bzaunting and scolding,
exclaiming against him, that all the house doth ring thereof,
and in this sort she begins her sagaries. How cursed be the
day that euer I sawe thy face, And a shame take them that
brought me first acquainted with thee: I would to God I had
either died in my cradle, or gone to my graue when I went
to be married with thee. Was euer woman of my degree
and birth brought to this beggerie? Or any of my bringing
vp kept thus basely, and brought to this shame? I which
little knew what labour meant, must now toyle and tend the
house as a drudge, hauing neuer a coate to my backe, or scant
handsome hose to my legs, and yet all little enough, where-
as I wis I might haue had twentie good marriages, in the
meane of which I should haue liued at ease and pleasure,
without being put to any paine, or suffering any penurie.
Wretch that I am, why doe I liue? now would to God I
were in my graue already, for I am wearie of the world, wea-
rie of my life, and wearie of all. Thus doth she daily complaine,
and lay all the fault of her fall on him which least deserved it,
nothing rememb'ring her owne pride, in coueting things
aboue her estate or abilitie, her misgouernment, and daily
gadding

Alas poore
soule.

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gadding with her Gossips to banquets and Bytchles, when she should haue lokt to the house, and followed her owne busines at home. And his follie is also such, that being blinded with Dotage, (through too much louing her,) cannot perceiue that she is the cause of all this euill, of all the cares, grieues, and thoughtis; which perplex and torture him, and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so fannish and vnquiet, when if he can at any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart somewhat at rest. Thus doth the sillie wretch tosse and turmoyle himselfe in Lobs pound, wrapt in a kinde of pleasing woe, out of the which hee hath neither power, nor will to winde himselfe; but therein doeth consume the remnant of his Languishing life, and miserablie ends his dayes.

CHAP. II.

The humour of a Woman, pranked vp in
braue Apparell.

THe nature of a Woman enclined to another kinde of humour, (which is this) when the Wife seeing her selfe brauely Apparellled, and that she is therewith faire and comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as Women are naturally giuen to sooth themselves,) shee doth as I saide before, hunt after Feasts and Solemne meetings, wherewith her Husband perhaps is not very well pleased; which shee perceiuing, the more to bleare his Eyes, shee takes with her some Kinswoman, or Gossip, or possible some lustie Gallant, of whome shee claimes kindred, though in very deede there be no such matter, but onely a smooth colour to deceiue her Husband: And perchance to induce him the sooner to beliene it, her Mother (which is pituie to the match,) will not sticke to say, and sweare it is so; Yet sometime the Husband to preuent his Wifes gadding, will saue some let, as want of Horses, or other like hinderances; Then presently the Gossip or Kinswoman (of whome before I spake,) will thus solemnely assault him.

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Believe mee Gossip, I haue as little pleasure, as who hath least, in going abroade, for I wisse I had not so much businesse to doe this Twelue moneths as I haue at this instant: yet should I not goe to this Wedding, being so kindly bidden, I knowe the young Bride would take it in very ill part: Yea, and (I may say to you) so would our Neighbour, and others our Friends, which will bee there, who would verily imagine, we kepe away for some other cause: and were it not for this, I protest I would not stirre out of doores, neither would my Cousen your Wife haue any desire to goe thither: thus much I can truly witnesse, that I neuer knewe any woman take lesse delight in such things then your Wife; or which being abroad, will make more haste to bee at home againe.

The sillie man her Husband, beinge tanquished by these wordes, and no longer able to denie their request, demands onely what other Menen doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them: Parrie Syz, (saith she) that shall my Cousen H. And besides your Wife and I, there goes my Kinf-woman T. and her Mother, mistresse H. and her Aunte: my Uncle T. and his Brother be mette with both their Wines: Mistresse C. my next Neighbour: and to conclude, all the Women of account in this Strate: (I dare boldly say,) that honeste companye there cannot bee, though it were to conueye a Kings Daughter.

Now it ofte chaunceth that this smoth tongued Quatrice who pleades thus quaintly with womans Arte, must haue for her paines a Cowne-cloth, a Ketwell, or some other recompente, if she preuaile with the good man, and cunningly play her part. He after some pause (perhaps) will replie in this sort; Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she vseth to goe very much abroade, yet for this time I am content she shall goe; But I pray you, Dame (quoth he) be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gottē leaue, makes as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my faith man I haue something else to doe, then to goe to a Brideall at this present: what, wee haue a great Household, & rude seruants (God wot) whose idleness is such, that
they

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they will not doe any thing, if a bodie backe be tynde: for it is an olde prouerbe: (When the Catte is away, the Mouſe will play.) And therefore Goffip holde you content, ſhe muſt not be altogether careleſſe, nor ſet ſo much by our pleaſure, to neglect our proſite. And therefore hold me excuſed, for I cannot now be ſpared, nor I will not goe, that is flat. Nay good Goffip (ſaith the other) ſeing your Huſband hath giuen you leaue, let vs haue your companie this once, and if it bee but for my ſake, ſuch a cheeunce as this comes not every day. With that the good man taking the olde Gyp aside, whiſpers her thus in her eare: were it not Goffip for the confidence I reſoſe in you, I proteſt ſhee ſhould not ſtirre out of doores at this time. ſo ſo as I am an honeſt woman (quoth ſhe) and of my credit Goffip you ſhall not make to doubt any thing.

Thus to Hoſe they get, and alway they ſpurre, with a merrie gallop, laughing to themſelues, mocking and ſtutting the ſilly man for his ſimplicite: the one ſaying to the other, that hee had a ſhewe of ſealouſ bzaime, but it ſhould auaille him nothing. Luſy (ſaith the young woman) it is an olde ſaying, He had neede of a long ſpoone that will eate with the Diuel; and ſhee of a good wite, that would prevent the Forie of a ſealouſ ſoule: and with this and the like talke, they paſſe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they meete with luſtie Gallants, who (paraduenture) had at the ſoſiſior ſeaſt made the match, and were come thither of purpoſe to ſtrike vp the bargain. But howſoener it is, this luſtie Laſſe lacks no good cheare, nor any kindneſſe which they can ſhew her.

I imagine now how ſoſward ſhe will be to ſhew her beſt ſkill in Dauncing and ſinging, and how lightly ſhee will afterwaſd eſteeme her Huſband: being thus courted and commended by a cſeue of luſtie Gallants, who ſeing her ſo bzauely attired, and graced with ſo ſweete and ſmooth a tongue, ſo ſharpe a wit, ſo amiable a countenance, will each ſtrive to errede other, in ſeruing, louing, and pleaſing her: for the gallant carriage and wanton demeanour of ſo beautifull a pſere, cannot chuſe but incourage a mſere Colward, and heate (if not enflame) a frozen heart: One aſſayes her with ſugred tearmes, and

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some pleasing discourse, painting forth his affection with eloquence: Another giues her a priuie Token, by straining her soft hand; or treading on her prettiefote; Another Eyes her with a piercing and pittifull looke, making his countenance his fancies Herold: and perhaps the third (which is most likely to speake) bestows upon her a gold Ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly tope: By all which aforesaid tokens, she may well conceiue their meanings, (if she haue any conceite at all,) and sometimes it so fallies out, that they fall in where they should not; and shee stepping somewhat aside, doth so threewoly straine her honestie, that hardly or neuer the grieke can be cured. But to procede, this ouergorgious wantonning of his Wife, bzings the poore man behind hand, and doth with all cause a greater inconuenience, for in the end by ome means or other, either through her too much boldnes, or her Louers want of warinesse, the matter at length comes to light, whereof some friend or kinsman giues him notice.

She being tickled by this bad report, thereupon searching further, findes it true, or gathers more likelyhood of suspicion, and that presently infects his thoughts with Jealousie, into which mad tormenting humoz, no wise man will euer fall; for it is an euill both extreame and endles, especially (if it be iustly conceived, upon the wines knowne leaudres, so; then there is no hope of curing. She on the other side (seeing this, and receiuing for her losse life, many bitter speeches) doth closely keepe on her olde courtie, but now more for spight then pleasure; for it is in vaine so thinke that she will reclaim her selfe. And if hee (hoping by constraint to make her honest) fall to beating her, (though hee be neuer so much seneritie,) hee shall but kindle so much the more the fire of that leaude Loue, which she beares vnto others: hereon folloves a heape of mischieses; She growes carelesse of his busines, letting all things runne to ruine: She on the other side (becomes shamelesse,) conuerting into deadly hate the Loue that she should beare him. Judge now what a purgatorie of perplexities the poore man doeth liue in; and yet for all this, hee is so besotted, that hee comes to take great pleasure in his paines, and to be so farre in loue with his pound, that

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that were he not already in, yet he would make all haste possible to be possessed of the place, there to consume the residue of his life, and miserably end his daies.

CHAP. III.

The humour of a woman lying in Child-bed.

There is another humour incident to a woman, when her husband sees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the helpe of some other friend) yet he perswades himselfe, it is a worke of his oluyne framing: and this breeds him new cares and troubles, for then must he trot vp and downe day and night, farre and neare, to get with great cost that his wife longs for: if she let fall but a pin, he is diligent to take it vp, least she by stooping should hurt her selfe. She on the other side is so hard to please, that it is a great hap when he fits her humour, in bringing home that which likes her, though he spare no paines nor cost to get it. And oft times through ease and plentie she growes so queasie stomach, that she can brooke no common meates, but longs for strange and rare things, which whether they be to be had or no, yet she must haue them there is no remedie. She must haue Cherries, though for a pound he pay ten shillings, or greene Pescodes at foure Nobles a pecke: yea, he must take a horse, and ride into the Countrey, to get her greene Codlings, when they are scarcely so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and vexation of mind and body, liues the silly man for sixe or seuen moneths, all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and her peere soule takes all the care, rising early, going late to bed, and to be short, is faine to play both the husband and husswife. But when the time draws nere of her lying downe, then must he trudge to get Cossips, such as she will appoint, or else all the fatte is in the fire. Consider then what cost and trouble it will be to him, to haue all things fine against the Christning day, what store of Sugar, Biskets, Comphets and Carawayes, Marmalet,

and

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and marchpane, with all kind of swete suckets, and superfluous banquetting stuffe, with a hundred other odde and hard, kisse trifles, which at that time must fill the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, she must haue her nurse to attend and keepe her, who must make for her warme bzoaths, and costly caldwels, enough both for her selfe and her mistresse, being of the minde to fare no worse then she: If her mistresse be fedde with partridge, plouer, woodcocks, quailles, or any such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties: neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole moneth, she priuily pilfers away the sugar, the nutmegs and ginger, with all other spices that comes vnder her keeping, putting the poore man to such expence, that in a whole yeare he can scarcely recouer that one moneths charges. Then euery day after her lying dolour will sundry dames visit her, which are her neighbours, her kinswomen, and other her speciall acquaintance, whom the godman must welcome with all cherefulnesse, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set before them: where they about some three or foure houres (or possible halfe a day) will sit chatting with the Child-wife, and by that time the cups of wine haue merily trolld about, and halfe a dozen times moistned their lips with the sweet iuyce of the purple grape: They begin thus one with another to discourse; Good Lord neighbour, I maruaile how our gossip Frees doth, I haue not sene the god saule this many a day.

Ah God helpe her, quoth another, for she hath her hands full of worke, and her heart full of heauinesse: While she iudges all the worke at home, her husband, like an vnthrift, neuer leaues running abroad to the Tennis court, and Dicing houses, spending all that euer he hath in such leaud sport: yea, and if that were the worst it is well: But heare you Gossip, there is another matter spoyles all, he cares no more for his wife then for a dog, but keepes queanes enen vnder her nose. Jesu! saith another, who would thinke he were such a man, he behaues himselfe so orderly and ciuilly, to all mens sights: Tush, hold your peace Gossip (saith the other) it is commonly sene, the

Gill

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still some eates up all the drasse, he carries a sinewy counte-
 nance; but a corrupt conscience: That I knowe F. well e-
 nough; I will not say he loues mistresse G. goe to Gossip I
 drinke to you. Pea and saith another, there goes soule lies if G.
 himselfe think not his maier N. I can tell you their mouthes
 will not be stopp with a bushell of wheat that speake it. Then
 the third fetching a great sigh, saying, by my truth such an o-
 ther bold Bettresse haue I at home: for neuer giue me credit
 Gossip, if I take her not the other day in close conference
 with her maister, but I thinke I beswaddeld my maide in
 such sort; that she will haue small list to doe so againe. Nay
 Gossip (saith another) had it bene to me, that should not haue
 serued her turne, but I would haue turned the queane out
 of doores to picke a Wallet: for wot ye what Gossip; it is ill
 setting fire and flare together: but I pray you tell me one
 thing; when saw you our friend mistresse G. now in good
 sothe she is a kind creature, and a very gentle Deat: I pray
 you I saw her not since you, and I dranke a pinte of
 wine with her in the fishmarket. (¶ Gossip saith the other)
 there is a great change since that time, for they haue bene
 faine to patone all that euer they haue, and yet God knowes
 her husband lies still in prison. ¶ the passion of my heart
 (saith another) is all their great and glorious shee come
 to nothing: god Lord what a world is this: ¶ by Gossip
 (saith another) it was neuer like to be otherwise, for they loked
 euer to goe fine; and fare daintily, and by my faith Gossip, this
 is not a world for those matters, and thereupon I drinke to
 you. ¶ it is commonly their communication, where they finde
 cheate according to their choyce. But if it happen contrarie;
 that they finde not things in such plentie, and god order as
 they would wish, then one or other of them will talke to this
 effect: Trust me Gossip I maruell much, and so doth also our
 other friends, that your husband is not ashamed to make such
 small account of you, and this your swete child. If he be such a
 niggard at the first, what will he be by that time he hath
 sue or sir: it doth well appeare he beares but little loue to you:
 whereas you vouchsafing to match with him, hath done him

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more credit then ever had any of his kindred. Before God, saith another, I had rather see my husbands eyes out then he should serue me so: therefore if you be wise vse him not to it: neither in this sort let him tread you vnder foote: I tell you it is a foule shame for him, and you may be well assured sith he begins thus, that hereafter he will vse you in the same order, if not worse. In god soth saith the third, it seemes very straunge to me, that a wise woman, and one of such parentage as you are, who as all men knowes is by blood farre his better, can endure to be thus vsed by a base companion: Blame vs not to speake god Gossip, for I protest the wrong that he doth you, both likewise touch vs, and all other god women that are in your case.

The Child wife hearing all this, begins to wepe, saying, Alas Gossip, I know not what to doe, or how to please him, he is so diuerse and wayward a man, and besides, he thinks all too much that is spent. (Gossip he is saith one) a badde and a haughtie man, and so it is well sene by your vlsage. All my Gossips here present can tell, that when I was married to my husband, euery one said that he was so haughty and hard to please that he would kill me with griefe: And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough: for he began to take vpon him mightily, and thought to haue wrought wonders, yet I haue vsed such meanes, that I haue famed my young maister, and haue at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare he had rather lose one of his ioynts, then wrangle with me: I will not denie but once or twice he beate me shrewdly, which I God mot being young and tender toke in grauous part, but what he got by it, let my Gossip T. report, who is yet a woman lining, and can tell the whole storie: to whom my god man within a while after saide, that I was past remedie, and that he might sooner kill me, then doe any good by beating me, (and by these ten bones so he should) but in the ende I brought the matter so about, that I got the bridle into my owne hands, so that I may now say, I doe what I list: for be it right or wrong, if I say it, he will not gainsay it, (for
by

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by this Golden ring, let him doe what he can: I will be sure to haue the last word: so that in very deed, if that Woman be made vnderlings by their Husbands, the fault is their owne: for ther is not any man aliue, (be he neuer so churlish) but his wife may make him quiet and gentle enough, if she haue any wit. And therefore your Good-man serues you but well enough, sith you will take it so.

Belieue me Goslip (saith another,) were I in your case, I would giue him such welcome, at his coming home, and ring such a peale of badde wordes in his eares, that hee should haue small ioy to stay the hearing.

Thus is the poore Span handled behinde his backe, whiles they make no spare to helpe alway with his good Wine and Sugar, (which he hath prepared,) to home they for his kindnesse thus ingratelly requite: Yea and now and then hauing their baines well heated, they will not sticke to taunt him to his face: Accusing him of little Loue, and great vnkindnesse to his wife.

Now it doth many times so chaunce, that hee hauing bene forth to prouide such meates as shes would haue, he cometh home (perchappes at midnight,) and before hee sitteth downe to rest himselfe, hath a very earnest desire to knowe how his wife doth, and perchance being loath to lye abroad, because of Cerpences, trauailes the later, that he may reach to his owne house: Inhere (when he is once come,) he asketh the Chamber-maide, or else the Nurse, how his wife doeth: they hauing their Errand before giuen them by their Mistresse, answeres, shee is very ill at ease, and that since his departure shes tasted not one bit of meate, but that towards the Evening shee beganne to be a little better, all which he more lyes. But the Poore-man hearing these wordes, grieues not a little, though he be all to bemoyld, weary and wet, hauing gone a long iourney, though a badde and filthie way, vpon some ill paced trotting yade, and it may be is fasting too, yet will he neither eate nor drinke, nor (so much as once sit downe) till he haue seene his wife. When the prattling idle Nurse, which is not to learne to erpiopte such a peere of Bernice, beginnes to looke verie heauily

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heaully, and to sigh inwardly as though her ~~distresse~~ had bene that day at the point of Death; which he feeling, was the more earnest to visit his wife: whom at the entrance of the Chamber, he heares lye groning to her selfe, and conning to the Beds side, kindly sits downe by her, saying how now my sweet heart, how dost thou? Ah Husband (saith she) I am very ill, now was I euer so sicke in my life as I haue bene this day. Alas god soule (saith he) I am the more sozrie to heare it. I pray thee tell mee where lies thy paine? Ah Husband (quoth she) you know I haue bene weake a long time, and not able to eate any thing. But Wife (quoth he) why did you not cause the Purse to boyle you a Capon, and make a melle of god Bzoath for you? So shee did (saith his wife) as well as she could, but it did not like me God wote, and by that meanes I haue eaten nothing, since the bzoath which your selfe made me: Oh me I thought that was excellent god.

Marie Wife (saith he) I will presently make you some more of the same, and you shall eate it for my sake. With all my hart god Husband (saith shee) and I shall thinke my selfe highly beholding vnto you. When trudgeeth hee into the Kitchin, there playes hee the Cooke, burning and bzoeling himselfe ouer the fire, hauing his eyes ready to be put out with smoake, while hee is busie in making the Bzoath: what time hee chides with his Spaiues, calling them beasts and baggages, that knowes not how to doe any thing; Not so much as make a little bzoath for a sicke body, but he must be faine to doe it him selfe. Then comes downe Spittis Purse as fine as a farthing Fiddle, in her petticoate and Birtle, hauing on a white waile-coate, with a Flaunting cambrickie ruffe about her necke, who like a Doctris in Faultrie, comes thus vpon him. Good Lord say, what paines you take, here is no bodie can please our Spittresse but your selfe: I will assure you (on my credite) that I doe what I can, yet for my life, I cannot I, any way content her. Meane while, here came in Spittresse Cor. and Spittresse Con. who did both of them what they could to haue your Wife eate something; Nevertheless all that they did, could not make her taste one spoonefull of any thing all this liue-long day: I know not what the ayles,

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ayles. I have kept many a banquet in my time, both of woꝝ
 this and creake. simple though it stand here,) but I neuer
 knew any so worke as there is. A (quoth he) you are a com-
 panie of cunning Cookes, that cannot make a little Broath as it
 should be. And by this time the broath being ready, hee brings
 it straight to his Wife, comforting her with many kind woꝝds,
 praying her to eate for his sake, or to take a spoonfull by twaine,
 which she doth, commending it to the Heauens, affirming also,
 that the Broath which the others made had no god taste in the
 woꝝld, and was nothing worth. The good man heresof beeing
 not a little proude, biddes them make a good fire in his Wines
 chamber, charging them to send her word. And hauing giuen
 this direction, hee gettes himselfe to supper, with some colde
 meate set before him, such as the Collips left, or his purse could
 spare, and hauing this short pittance hee goes to Bedde full of
 care. ~~and thus hee endeth the first part of this banquet~~
 The next morning he gets him vp betimes, and comes verie
 kindly to know how his Wife doth, who presently pops him
 in the mouth with a smooth lye, saying, that all night she could
 take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and then she be-
 ganne to sleepe a little more ease, when God knowes she neuer
 slept more soundly in all her life. Well Wife, (saide the good
 man,) you must remember that this night is our Collips Sup-
 per, and they will come hither with many other of our friends,
 therefore we must prouide some good thing for them. Especial-
 ly because it is your Wifitting, and a foꝛtnight at the least since
 you were brought to Bedde: but good Wife, let vs goe as nere
 to the woꝝld as we may; seeing that our great charge doth eue-
 ry day increase, and mony was neuer so ill to come by.

She hearing him to say so, beginnes to pout, saying; would
 for my part I had dyed in Trauell, and my poore infant beene
 strangled in the Birth, so should you not be troubled with vs at
 all, nor haue cause to repine so much at our spending: I am
 sure there is neuer a Woman in the woꝝld, that in my case
 hath worse keeping, or is lesse chargeable, yet let me pinch and
 spare, and doe what I can, all is thought too much that I haue:
 Trust mee I care not a strawe whether you prouide me any

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thing or no, although the sorowes bee mine, the shame will be yours, as yesterday for example: I am sure here came in aboue a dozen of our neighbours and friends, of mine kindenells to see me, and know how I did, who by their countenance and comming did you greater credite then you deserve: But God knowes what entertainment they had, hauing nothing in the house to set before them, which made me so much ashamed, that I knowe not what to say: He tell you what, before God I may boldly speake it, (for I haue seene it,) that when any one of them lyes in, their very seruants haue better fare then I my selfe haue had at your handes, which they seeing (before themselves yesterday when they were here, did most cunningly shewe both you and me for their entertainment. I haue not (as you know) lyen in aboue fiftene dayes, and can yett stand on my legs, and you thinke the time so long, till I be moping about the house (to catch my hane,) as I feare I haue done al ready. Belieue me Wile (qu. he) you mistake me greatly, for no man in the world can bee more kinde to his wife, then I haue bene to you. Kinde to me (quoth she) by the manner that you haue with a murren; No doubt but I haue had a stout melle of her rising at your handes, but I se your wife well enough, you gaue every day for my deathe, and I would to God it were so for mee: The month indeede is halfe expired, and I feare the rest will come, before wee be ready for it: My sister S. was heere no longer agoe then to day, and aske if I had euer a netue Colone to be Churched in, but God wote I am farr enough from it, neither doe I desire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reason and custome to be obserued.

And because it is your pleasure, I will rise to morrow, what chaunce soeuer befall, for the world is, I can but lose my life: full well may I gather by this, how you will vse me hereafter, and what account you would make of me, if I had nine or ten children, but God forbid it should euer come so to passe, I desire rather to be rid of my life, and so to shunne the shame of the world, then long to liue with such an vnkinde churle. Now verily wise (saith the Good man) I must needs blame your impatience, for growing so chollericke without cause. Without cause (quoth she?)

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She 1) Doo you thinke I haue no iust cause to complaine : I will assure you there is neuer a woman of my degree, that would put by the intollerable iniuries that I haue done, and partly doe, by meanes of your higgity conditions. Well saith the good man, lye as tunc as you list, and rise when you will, but I pray you tell me how this new golone may be had, which you so earnestly aske for? By my faith (quoth she) you say not well, for I aske nothing at your hands, neither would I haue it though I might : I thanke God I haue golones enough alreadye, and sufficient to serue my turne; and you knowe I take no delight in garish attire, for I am past a girl, but it makes me smile to see what a shew of kindnes you would faine make : spee on the dissembler, you can cog and flatter as well as any man in this towne, and full little thinke they that see you abroad, what a dismall you are at home : for what with your crooked qualities, with toying, moying, carking and raring, and being beside broken with Child-bearing, my countenance is quite changed, so that I looke alreadye as withered, as the backe of an Elder bough : There is my Cousen T. T. who when I was a little girl, was at tosmans estate, and in the end married Maister J. with whom she leades a Ladies life, looking so yong and lustie, that I may seme to be her mother : I. I. such is the difference betwixt a kind, and an vnconscience husband, and who knowes not but he was a suter to me, and made many a iourney to my fathers house for my sake, and would so faine haue had me, that while I was to marrie, he should not match himselfe with any; but so much was I bewitched, that after I had once seene you, I would not haue changed for the best Lord in the land, and this I haue in recompence of my loue and loyaltye. Doe two wiues (saith he) I pray you leane these launty speeches, and let vs call to minde where we may best take vp closh for your golone: for you see, such is our weake estate, that if we should rashly lay out that little money which is in the house, we might possibly bee vnprovided of all other necessities : Therefore whatsoeuer should chaunce hereafter, it is best to

The Fox will
eate no grapes

No more like
the woman
I was, then an
apple is like
an oyster.

keape

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keeps something against a rainy day: And againe you know within these eight or nine dayes, I haue the point to pay to Spalder P. which must be done there is no stay, wherefore I am like to sustaine trebble dammage. Tush (quoth he) what take you to me of those matters: Alas I aske you nothing: I would to God I were once rid of this trouble: I pray you let me take some rest, for my head akes (God helpe me as it would goe in peeces) I wis you feele not my paine, and you take little care for my grieffe: Therefore I pray you send my Gossips word that they may not come, for I feele my selfe very ill at ease. Not so (quoth he) I will neither breake custome, nor so much as gaine say their courteous offer, they shall come sure, and be entertained in the best manner I may. Well (quoth he) I would to God you would leaue me, that I might take a little rest, and then doe as you list. Upon these speeches the Maide straight steppes in, and roundes her maister in the eare, I pray you doe not force her to many words, for it makes her head light, and doth great haire to a woman in her case, especially her bzaines being so light for want of sleep: and besides, she is God knowes, a woman of a tender and chere complexion, and with that she drawes the Curtaines about the bed. Thus is the pore man held in suspense till the next day that the Gossips come, who will play their parts so kindly, and gaule him so to the quicke with their railes and taunts, that his courage will be wholly quailed, and he readye (if they should bid him, like the prodigall child, even to eate drasse with the hogges) rather then he would displease them. But to proceede, he in the meane while is double diligence, to provide all things against their coming, according to his abilitie, and by reason of his wines words, he buyes more meate, and prepares a great deale better cheare then he thought to haue done. At their coming he is readye to welcome them with his Cap in hand, and all the kindnesse that may be shewed. When doth he trudge bare-headed vp and downe the house, with a cheerefull countenance, like a good Ass, at to beare the burthen, he bzings the Gossips vp to his wife, and comming

first

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first to her himselfe, he tels her of their comming. It is (quoth she) I had rather they had kept at home, and so they would too, if they knew how little pleasure I take in their comming. Nay I pray you wife (saith he) giue them good countenance, seeing they be come for good will: with this they enter, and after mutual greetings, with much gossips ceremonies, downe they sit and there spend the whole day, in breaking their fastes, dining, and in making an after noones repast: besides their pettie suppers at her beds side, and at the cradle, where they discharge their parts so well, in helping him away with his good wine and sugar, that the poore man comming oft to cheare them, doth well perceiue it, and grieues inwardly thereat, howsoener he couers his discontent with a merrie countenance. But they not caring how the game goes, take their penitwoorths of that cheare which is before them, neuer asking how it comes there, and so they merily passe the time away, prattling and tattling of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots by and downe anew, to get his wife the foresaid gowns and all other things thereto sutable, whereby he sets himselfe soundly in debt: sometimes he is troubled with the childs bawling: sometimes he is bawled at by the nurse: then his wife complains, that she was neuer well since she was brought to bed, then must he cast his cares anew, deuising by what means to discharge his debts and lessen his expences: then resolues he to diminish his owne port, and augment his wines bawerie, he will goe all the yeare in one sute, and make two paire of shoes serue him a twelue moneth, keeping one paire for holy daies, another for working daies, and one hat in three or foure yeares. Thus accordyng to his owne rash desire, he is up to the eares in Lobs potwnd, and for all the woo and wretchednes that he hath felt, he would not yet be out againe, but doth then willingly consume his selfe in continuall care, sorrow and trouble, till death doth set him free.

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CHAP. IIII.

The Humour of a woman that hath a
charge of children.

Being tyred
with scolding,
as a hackney
fade with tra-
uell.

The next Humour that is by nature incident to a woman, is, when the husband hath bin married nine or ten yeares, hath five or six children, hath passed many euill daies, vnquiet nights, and troubles aforesaid, hath his lustie youth, fulnes spent, so that it is now high time for him to repent: But such is his grosse folly that he cannot, and such his dullnesse, through the continuall verations, which haue tamed and trefried him, that he cares not whatsoeuer his wife saith or doth, but is hardned like an olde Asse, which being used to the whip will not once mend his pace be he lashed neuer so much: The poore man seeth two or thre of his daughters marriage-able, which is sone knotone by their wanton trickes, their playing, dauncing, and other youthfull toys, but he keepe them backe, hauing perhaps small comings in, to keepe, maintaine, and furnish them as they looke for, with golones, kettles, linnen, and other ornaments, as they should be for thre causes. First, that they may be the soner sued vnto by lustie gallants: Secondly, because his denying hereof, should nothing auaille: for his wife which knowes his daughters humours by her owne, when she was of the like yeares, will see that they shall want nothing: Thirdly, they peraduenture, bearing right womens mindes, if their father keepe them short, will finde some other friends that shall afford it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the excessive charges which he must be at, will (as it is likely) be but honestly attired himselfe, not caring how he goes so he may rubbe out, be it neuer so barely, and would be glad to scape so: But as the fish in the Poude, which would also thinke himselfe well, though wanting former libertie, if he might be suffered to continue, is cut off before his time: So is likewise this poore man serued, being
once

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once plunged in the perplerling Ponds, or rather (Wounde of Mellocke and Housel-keeping : for heyssoeuer, when hee considers the asofsaide charges and troubles, hee begins to haue no ioye of himselfe, and is no more mooued then a tyred Jade, which forceth not for the spurre : Yet for the furnishing of his Wife and Daughters, so that hee may haue peate at home, and enjoy an easie bondage, hee must trudge vp and doloue earlie and late about his businesse, in that course of life which he professeth;

Sometimes he iourneys thirtie or fortie miles off, about his affaires : Another time, twice so farre to the Tearme of Assises, concerning some olde matter in Lawe, which was begunne by his Graund father, and not yet towards an ende, hee pulles on a paire of Botes of seuen yeares olde, which haue beere cobled so ofte, that they are nowe a sote to shooe for him, so that the toppe of the Bote reaches no further then the calfe of his legges, he hath a paire of Spurres of the olde making, whereof the one wants a Rowell, and the other for want of Leathers, is fastened to his sote with a poynt : Hee putteth a laced Coate on his backe, which hee hath had sice or seuen yeares, which he neuer wore but vppon High-dayes, whose fashion is growne cleane out of request, by reason of new inuented Garments ; whatsoeuer sports or pleasures he lights on (by the way on his iourney, hee takes no ioy in them, because his minde is altogether on his troubles at home, hee fares hard by the way, as also his poore Horse, (if he haue any) his man folloves him in a rurne sute, with a sword by his side, which was found vnder a hedge at the siege of Bullen ; he hath a coate on his backe, which euery man may knowe was neuer made for him, or hee not present when it was cut out ; for the wings on his shoulders comes doloue halfe way his arme, and the skyrtes as much beloue his waste : To be short, the poore man goeth euery way as neare as may be, for he remembers at what charges he is at home, and knowes not what it will cost him, in faying his Counselors, Attornies, and Defty-foggers, which will doe nothing without present pay : he dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and bles him home with such hast, to auoid greater charges, that he

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rests no where by the way. And hereby it chaunceth that manie times he comes home at such an houre, as is as neare morning as to night, and findes nothing to eate, for his Wife and Seruants are in bed, all which hee takes patiently, being now well vsed to such entertainment : Surely for my part, that God sends such aduersitie and distresse to those only whose good and milde nature, he knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part.

But to proceede, it is very likely that the poore man is very weary, his heart heavy, by reason of the care and thought which he hath of his businesse; and it may be (hee looks to be welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe) howsoeuer he forgets not his former vlage. But it falls out otherwile, for his wife begins to chide; whose words carries such a sway with the Seruants, that whatsoeuer their Maister saith, they make small account of it; but if their Mistresse command any thing it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things, else must they packe out of seruice: so that it bores not him to bid them doe any thing, or rebuke them for not doing it: And his poore man that hath bene with him, dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any Attendants to comfort himselfe, or for the Horses, least they should suspect him to be of his Maisters faction, (who being wise, and of a quiet and milde nature) is loth to make any stirre, or breake any disquietnes in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits him downe farre from the fire, though hee be very colde: But his wife and children stand round about it, but all their eyes are cast on her, who looks on her Husband with an angrie countenance, not caring to prouide ought for his supper; but contrariwise taunts him with sharpe and shrewish speeches, whereto for the most part, he answers not a word, but sometimes (perhaps being vexed, through hunger or wearines, or the unkindnes of his wife) he doth thus vtter his minde. Well Wife, you can looke well enough to your selfe, but as for me, I am both wearie and hungry, hauing neither eaten nor drunke all this day, and being beside wet to the very skinne, yet you make no reckoning to prouide any thing for my supper.

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Ab (quoth shee) you doe well to beginne first, least I should, which haue most cause to speake: Haue you not done very well (thinke yee) to take your man with you, and leaue me no bodie to white the Cloathes? Now before God, I haue had more losse in my Linnen, then you will get this Twelue-month. Moreover, you shutte the Wenne-roast done very well, did you not? When the Fowle got in, and ate vp foure of my best brwde-Wennes, as you (to your cost will soon finde) by the masse: if you liue long, you will be the poorest of your kinne. Well wife (saith the Good-man) vse no such wordes I pray you, God be thanked I haue enough, and more shall haue when it pleaseth him: and I tell ye, I haue good men of my kinne. But quoth shee, I knowe not where they bee, nor what they are worth. Well (saith he) they are of credite and abilitie too. But so; all that (quoth shee) they doe you small good. As much good (saith hee) as any of yours. As any of mine (saith shee), and that shee spake with such a high Note, that the house rung withall, saying: By Cocks-soule, were it not so; my friends, you would doe but sozily.

Well good wife (saith hee,) Let vs leaue this talke; Nay, (saith shee) if they heard what you saide, they would answere you well enough. The good-man holds his peace, fearing least shee should tell them, being of greater abilitie then hee was, and besides, because hee was loth that they should be offended with him. When one of the Children falls a crying, and hee perhaps, which his Father loued best, whereupon the Mother presently toke a rodde, turned by the Childs taile, and whipt him well sanozedly; and the more to despight and anger her Husband, then for ought else. The good-man being hete with somewhat moued, wille her to leaue beating the Child, shewing by his bended browes that he was not a little angry at her doings. Now gyp with a matren (quoth she) you are not troubled with them, they cost you nothing, but it is I that haue all the paines with them night and day. Then comes in the Nurse with her verditte, and thus shee bequimes, saying: O Sir, you knowe not what a hand shee hath with them, and we also that tend them. Then comes in the Chamber-maide with her

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five Eggs : In god saith say, it is a shame for you, that at your coming home, when all the whole house should be glad thereof, that you should contrariwise put it thus out of quiet; Saith he, (is it I that make this stirre?)

Then is the whole Household against him, when hee seeing himselfe thus baited on all sides, (and the match so vnequall,) gets him to Bed quietly without his supper, all wette and out-tie; or if he doe suppe he hath but thinnie fare: and being in Bedde, where hee should take his rest, hee is so disquieted with the Children, whom the Nurse and his Wife (doth on purpose set on crying,) to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot sleepe one winke.

Thus is he vexed with continuall troubles, wherewith he seemeth to be well pleased, and would not though he might be free from them, but doth therein spend his miserable and unhappy life.

CHAP. V.

The humor of a Woman that marries her inferior by Byrth.

A Woman inclined to another kinde of humour, which is, when the Husband hath bene married, and hath passed so many troubles, that he is wearied therewith, his lustie youthfull blood growne colde, is matched with a Wife of better birth then himselfe, and perhaps yonger, both which things are very dangerous, and no wise man should sake his owne spoyle, by wrapping himself in either of those bonds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason and nature to accord them. Sometimes they haue Children, sometimes they haue none; yet this notwithstanding, the Wife can take no paines, yet must be maintained according to her degree, to the Husbands exceeding charges: for the furnishing whereof, the poor Span is forced to take extream toyle and paines, and yet for all this, thanks God, for vouchsafing him so great a grace, as to be matcht with her: If now and then they grow to hat words together (as ofte it happens) then presently in upbawding and mena-

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menacing sozt she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his dudge, and that she knowes well enough of what lineage she is come, and with bag withall, that when she list to write to her friends and kinsmen they will presently fetch her away. This doth she keeps him in awe, and in a kinde of seruitude, by telling him of them, who would perhaps haue matcht her better, and not with him, but for some priuie scape that she hath had before, whereof she pays soule knowes nothing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inkling thereof, yet because he is simple, the credit that he might giue thereunto is quickly dashed, by a contrarie tale of others subboznd by them, who perchance will not sticke to sweare that this is a slander raised by euill tongues, and forged maliciously against her, as the like is done against many other good women, whose good names are wronged, and brought in question by bad persons on their tripling bench, because themselves cannot obtaine their purpose of them: notwithstanding, if her husband be not able to maintaine her according to her minde, then will she be sure to haue a friend in soze, that shall afford it her: if her husband denie it, and in the end she remembers that such a Gentleman at such a feast proffered her a diamond, or sent her by a messenger some 20. or thirtie crownes, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to giue him a kind glance, to renew his affection, who conceiuing some better hope, and meeting some after with her chamber-maid, as she is going about some busines, calls to her, saying; Sister, I would faine speake with you. Sir quoth she, say what you please. You know (quoth he) that I haue long loued your mistress, without obtaining any fauour: but tell me I pray you, did she neuer speake of me in your hearing? In saith sir (saith she) neuer but well: I dare sweare she wishes you no harme. Before God sister saith the Gentleman, if you will shew me some kindnes herein, and doe my commendations to your mistress, assuring her of my loue and loyalty, it shall be worth a new gowne vnto you, meane while take this in earnest, with that he offers her a peece of gold: She then making a lowe currie, sayth: Sir, I thanke you for your good

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A maid fit
for such a
mistres.

god will, but I will not take it. By my faith saith he but you shall, and with that he forceth it on her, adding these words: I pray you let me heare from you to morrow morning. She being glad of such a bootie, hys her home, and tels her mistres how she met with a Gentleman that was in a passing good haire: and to be short, after some questions vsed by her mistres, it appeares to be the very same man whom she would faine intrap. I tell thee saith she to her maide, if he be as kinde as he is proper, he were worthie to be any womans loue. Beleue me mistres (saith the maide) his very countenance shewes that he is kind, it seemes that he was onely made for loue, and withall he is wealthie, and thereby able to maintaine her beautie, and her person in bzauerie whom he affects. By this light (saith the mistres) I can get nothing of my husband. The more vn- wise you (saith the maide) to be so vsed. Alas quoth she what should I doe, I haue had him so long, that I cannot now set my heart on any other. Cusly (quoth the maide) it is a folly for any woman to set her heart so on any man, for you know they care not how they vse vs when they are once Lords ouer vs. Beside your husband though he would, yet cannot maintaine and keepe you according to your desire: but he of whom I speake will furnish and maintaine you gallantly what garments soener you will haue: and what colour and fashion soener you like best, you shall presently haue it, so that there wants nothing else, saue onely a quaint excuse to my Maister, making him beleue you had it by some other meanes. By my troth quoth her mistres, I know not what to say. Well mistres (saith the maide) aduise you well, I haue promist to giue him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith the other) how shall we doe? Cusly mistres (answers the maide) let me alone: As I goe to morrow to the market I am sure he will watch to make with me, that he may know what netwes, then I will tell him that you will not agree to his desire for feare of discredit, this will giue him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to pro-
mise

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wise next morning to market she hies, somewhat more ear-
 then she was wont, and by the way she meets with this lustie
 gallant, who hath waited for her at least three houres, he
 hath no sooner spied her, but he presently makes towards her,
 and at her coming, thus salutes her: Sister, good morrow,
 what newes I pray, and how doth your faire mistress? I
 saith sir (saith she) she is at home very pensive, and out of pa-
 tience, I thinke that neuer any woman had such a scoward
 husband. Ah villaine (saith he) the diuell take him. Amen
 (saith the maide) for both my mistress and all the seruants
 are wearie with carrying with him. Out on him slave (saith
 he) but I pray you tell me what answere gaue your mistress
 touching my sute? In saith (quoth she) I spake vnto her,
 but she would not agree thereunto, for she is wonderfully
 afraid to purchase her selfe discredit, and is beside plagued
 with such a scoward and suspicious husband, that although
 she were neuer so willing, yet could she not, being continu-
 ally watcht by him, his mother and brethren: I thinke on
 my conscience vnlesse that it were that she spake to you the
 other day, the poore woman talkt not with any man these
 foure moneths, yet she speaks very often of you, and I am
 well assured that if she would bend her minde to loue, she
 would chose you before all men in the world. He being rai-
 shed with these words, replies thus: Sweete sister, I pray you
 be my friend herein, and I will alwaies rest at your command.
 In good faith (saith she) I haue done more for you already
 then euer I did for any man in my life. And thinke not (saith
 he) that I will be bawardsfull of your kindnes, but what would
 you counsell me to doe? I saith sir (saith she) I thinke it best
 that you should speake with her your selfe, and now you haue
 an excellent opportunitie, for my maister hath refused to giue
 her a golde, whereat she stomes not a little, you shall doe
 well therefore to be to morrow at the church, and there salute
 her, telling her boldly your desire: you may also offer her what
 you thinke good: but I know she will take nothing: marrie she
 will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your franke
 and bountifull nature. Oh (saith he) I would she would gladly
 take

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take that, which I would gladly bestowe on her. May, answers the maide, I know she will not, for you neuer knewe a more honest woman: but I le tell ye, how ye may doe it afterwards: Looke what ye purpose to bestowe on her, you shall deliuer vnto me, I will doe my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall preuaile. Surely after (saith he) this is very good counsell: herewithall they part, and she returnes home, laughing to her selfe, which her mistress seeing, demaunds of her the cause thereof. Harrie (saith the maide) this lustie Gentleman is all on fire, to morrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demeane your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off to much leaſt you dismay him cleane: as you will not wholly graunt, so must you ſeede him with some hope. Shee, hauing her lesson thus taught her by her maide, gets her vp betimes the next morning, and to the Church shee goes, where this amorous gallant hath awaited for her comming euer ſince foure a clocke. She being set in her pew, makes shew as if she were deuoutly at her prayers, when (God wot) her deuotion is bent to the seruice of another Saint: it were woorth the noting to ſee how like an image she sits: and yet for all her demurenes, she applies all her five senses, and that full zealously in this new humor of religion. To be short, he steales vnto her, sneaking vnto her, from the belliey vnto her pew, and being come, greates her after the amorous order, and from greeting, he falls to courting, whereof she doth in no wise yeld consent, neither will she take ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a sort, that he doth thereby assuredly gather that she loues him, and stickes onely for feare of discredit: whereat he is not a little iocund, and hauing spent his time to so good a purpose, he takes his leaue, and she hauing home to her counsellor, acquaints her what hath passed betwene them, who thereupon takes occasion to say thus: Mistresse, I know well that now he longs to speake with me, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yeld to nothing, for which I will saue my selfe very soerie: & I will adde withall, that my master is gone out of towne, and will appoint him

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him to come hither towards the Evening, with promise that I will let him in, and conuey him so secretly into your Chamber, that you shall know nothing thereof: At what time you must same to be highly offended, and if you be wise, you will make him buy his pleasure with some Cost, which will cause him to esteeme the more of you; tell him that you will cry out, and then doe you call mee: By handling him thus, I can assure you, that you shall get more of him; then if you had yeldded at the first. All this while I will haue in my keeping that which hee will giue you, for he hath appointed to deliuer it me to morrow, and I will make him believe, that you would by no meanes take it. But when the matter is brought to this passe, then will I make shew to offer you his gift before him, telling you, that he is willing to bestowe it on you, to buy you a Coloure-cloth withall; When must you chide, and seeme to be angrie with mee for receiuing it, charging mee to deliuer it backe againe to him, but be sure I will lay it by safe enough. Well deuised wench (saith the Quittes) I am content it shall be so. This plot being thus laid, the crafty wench goes presently to finde out this iolly Gallant, whose first word is: What nelues?

Now in good faith say (saith shee,) the matter is no further forwarde, then if it were yet to be beginne; yet because I haue medled so farre in it, I would be loth I should not bring it about, for I feare that shee will complaine of mee to her Husband and Friends: but if I could perswade her by any meanes to receiue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatch: and in good faith Ile trie once more: I haue one god helpe, and that is this: my Maister (as I tolde you before) will not giue her a new Coloure, at which unkindenesse, shee stoymes mightilie.

The hotte Louer hearing this, giues her presently twentie Crownes for her god will, whereupon shee speakes thus: In good faith say, I know not how it commeth to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man before, as I haue done herein for you: See see say, what danger I haue put my selfe in for your sake, for if my Maister should haue any inkling of it, I were vtterly vndone: yet for you I will hazard

Better then
two yeares
wages, and
soone got.

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In't as Jar-
mans lippes.

a little further : I know the loues you well, and as god happe is my Spaiſter is not now in ſolowne, if you therefore will be about the doores towards ſire of the Clocke at night I will let you in, and ſo conuey you ſecretly into my Miſtres chamber, who doth ſleepe very ſoundly; for you know ſhe is but young, being there I could wiſh you goe to bed to her, and ſo the reſt you neede not (I truſt) any tutor: I proteſt that I know no other meanes for the compaſſing of this matter, perhaps it will ſadge: For it is a great matter, when a Louer and his Miſtres are both together naked and in the darke, which doth helpe forward a Womans conceit, to that which in the day time perhaps ſhe would hardly graunt. My ſweet friend (qd. he) for this kindnes my Muſe ſhall be at thy command. To be ſhort, night comes, he is there according to promiſe, whom ſhe ſtraight conueyes into her Miſtreſſe chamber; then he preſently unclothes him ſelfe, and ſteps ſoftly into her Bedde, and being once in, he begins to embrace her: hereat (ſhe that ſometimes till then aſleepe) ſtarts vp on a ſudden, and with a fearfull voyce aſks who is there? It is I ſweet Miſtreſſe (ſaith he) feare nothing. Ah qd. ſhe) thinke you to preuaile thus? Po, no, and with that ſhe makes aſthogh ſhe would riſe, and call her maide, who anſweres not a word; but alas for pittie, like an vndutiſull ſervant leaues her at her greateſt need. She therefore (good woman) ſeeing that ſhe is forſaken; ſayes with a ſigh, Ah me, I am betraid: then begin they a ſtont battell, He bying his aduantage, ſhee faintly reſiſting, but alas what can a naked woman doe againſt a reſolute Louer? there is therefore no other remedie, but that at length (poore ſoule,) being out of breath with ſtriving, ſhe muſt needes yeelde to the ſtronger; ſhee would ſaine haue cried out (God wot) had it not beene for feare of diſcredit; for thereby her name might haue bin brought in queſtion, therefore all things conſidered, ſhe doth vniwillingly God knowes, let him ſupplie her husbands place, garniſhing his temple, for pure god will, with Aſcons badge. Thus hath ſhe got a newe Colowne, which her good man refuſed to giue her, to bleare whoſe eyes, and keepe him from ſuſpition, ſhe gets her mother in her Husbands ſight, to bring home the cloch and giue it her, as though it were her coſt; and leaſt alſo ſhe ſhould ſuſpect any

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any thing, she makes her believe she bought it with the money which she got by selling odde commodities which her Husband knewe not of, But it may be (and oft happens so) that the Hower is pny to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof: After this Colone shee must haue another, and two or three silken embrothered gyddes, and other such costly knacks, which the Husband seeing, will in the end suspect somwhat, and begin to doubt of his wiues honestie, or shall perhaps receiue some aduertisement hereof from some friend or kinsman; for no such matter can be long kept close, but in the end wil by some means or other be made knowne and discovered: Then falls he into a frantick baine of zealousie, watching his Wiues close packing; and for the better finding of it out, he comes home on a sudden about midnight, thinking then to discover all, and yet perchappes may misse his purpose. Another time comming in at vnawares he seeth some thing that he likes not, and then in a furie falls on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yelding an inch vnto him: for besides the aduantage of the sight which is waged by her owne trustie weapon (her Tongue I meane) shee knowing withall that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith, and threatens him to tell her friends how hardly he doth vse her. To be short, the poore man shall neuer haue good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinencie, or if he speake to her, he is bozne downe with scolding lies, and despised of his owne Seruants; his state runnes to ruine, his wealth decayes, his body dries vp, and wears away with griefe; Hee grows desperate and carelesse. Thus is hee plunged in Lobs pound, wearied in a world of discontents, wherein notwithstanding he takes delight, hauing no desire to chaunge his state, but rather if he were out, and knelwe what would follew, yet would he neuer rest till he had gotten in againe, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in griefe and miserie.

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CHAP. VI.

The Humor of a Woman that strives
to maister her Husband.

The next humor, to whereunto a Woman is addicted, is, when the Husband hath got a faire young Wife, who is proper and fine, in whome hee takes great delight; yet perhaps she is bent altogether to crosse, and thwart: the man being of a kinde and milde nature, louing her entirely, and maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her scoldardnesse: It may be also that she hath care of his credite and honestie, and doth abhorre such leauidnesse, as shee of whome we spake before did vse, yet hath shee neuerthelesse an extream desire of Soueraigntie, (which is knowne a common fault amongst Women;) and to be her Husbands commaunder, and a busie medler in his matters; be hee a Iudge, a Nobleman, or Gentleman, she will take vpon her to giue sentence, and answer Duties, and whatsoeuer shee doeth he must stand to it.

This is, (I say) a generall imperfection of Women, be they neuer so honestly, neuer so kindly vsed, and haue neuer so much wealth and ease, to strue for the Breaches, and be in odde contrarie humours, of purpose to keepe her Husband in continuall thought and care how to please her.

He gets him by betimes in the morning, leauing her in Bed, to take her ease, while hee strues about the house and dispatcheth his busines, looks to the seruants that they loyter not, causeth Dinner to be made readie, the Cloth to be laide, and when all thinges are ready, he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings backe answere that she is not disposed to dine. So (saith he) I will neither sit downe, nor eate a bit till she be here, So receiuing his second message by his spaid, or perhaps by one of his children, replies thus, Go tell him againe that I will not dine to day. He hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the ende goes himselfe, and thus begins. How now, what ayles you Wife, that you will eate no
meates?

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meate: & hereto she answers not a word. The poore man man-
uels to see her in this melancholy dumpe, (although perhaps
she hath plaid this pageant many times before) and vseth all
entreatie he may, to knowe of her the cause thereof: but in
vaime, for indeed there is no cause at all, but onely a mere mo-
kerie: Sometimes she will persist so obstinately in this humoz,
that for all the perswasions and kindnesse that he can vse, she
will not come. Sometimes it may be she will, and then he
must leade her by the hand like a byde, and set her chaire rea-
die for her, meane while it is so long before he can get her
downe, that the meate is cold when it comes to the table.
Being set, she will not eat one bit, and he seeing that (like a
kinde fiske) will last likewise: whereat she smiles inwardly,
hauing brought him so to her bowes, first in crossing him, then
in making him to fall from dinner: wherein (to say the truth)
she hath reason, for what needes a woman to seeke his fauour,
who doth already loue her, and shew her all the kindnes that
he can. Sometimes the good man ryding abroad about his
business, meates with two or thre of his friends, with whom
perhaps he hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquain-
ted with them: It may be also that he inuites them home to
his house, as one friend will doe to another, and sends his
man before to his wife to make all things readie in the best
sort that she can for their entertainment: the poore seruing-
man gallops in such hast, that both himselfe and his horse is all
on a sweate, when he comes home he doth his aruand to his
mistresse, telling her withall that the guests which his maister
bryngs are men of good account. Now by my faith (saith she)
I will not meddle in it, he thinkes belike that I haue nothing
else to doe, but Iudge about to prepare banquets for his com-
panions, he should haue come himselfe with a vengeance, and
why did he not: forsooth (saith the seruant) I know not, but
thus he bad me tell you. So too (saith she) you are a knaue that
meddles in more matters then you haue thanke for. The poore
felloe hearing this holds his peace, she in a fume sings vp into
her chamber, and which is worse, sends out her seruants,
some one way, some another: as for her maydes, they haue
their

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Oh fetch
the aqua
vitz bottle
quickly.

their lesson taught them well enough, knowing by custome how to behaue themselves to weareie their maister: well, he comes home to his aforesaid friends, calls presently for some of his seruants: but one of the maides make answere, of whom he demaunds whether all things be readie: In good saith her my mistresse is very sicke, and here is no body else can doe any thing: with that he being angry, leades his friends into the hall, or some other place according to his estate, where he findes neither fire made, nor cloath laide. Judge then in what a taking he is, although it may be that his friends perceiued by the sending of his man, that his commaundments were not of such force as an act of parliament. The good man being ashamed, calls and gapes, first for one man then for another, and yet for all this there comes none, except it be the scullion or some chare woman, that doth vse his house, whom his wife hath left there of purpose, because she knew they could serue to doe nothing. Being herewith not a little moued, vp he goes into his wiues chamber, and thus speaks vnto her: Gods precious woman, why haue ye not done as I wold ye? Why (saith she) you appoint so many things to be done that I know not what to doe. Before God (saith he) and with that scratches his head, you haue done me a greater displeasure then you thinke: these are the dearest friends that I haue, and now here is nothing to set before them. Why (quoth she) what wold you haue me to doe? This if you cast your cards well, you shall finde that we haue no neede to make banquets: I wold to God you were wiser, but sith you will needes be so lustie, euen goe through with it your selfe on Gods name, for Ile not meddle with it. But what the diuellment ye (saith he) to send all the seruants abroad? Why (quoth she) what did I know that you should neede them now: yet did she know it well enough, and had of purpose sent them forth on liuellesse attands, the more to anger and despight him: who seeing that he can preuaile nothing, giues over talking to her, and gets him dolone in a bitter chafe: for it may be that his guesstes be of such account, and he so much beholding vnto them, that he had rather haue

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haue spent a hundred crownes then it should so haue fallen out. But she cares not a whit, being well assured, that howsoeuer she thwaits him, he will hold his hands, and in scolding she knothes her selfe to be the better. To be short, the poore man being vexed, with shame and anger, runnes vp and downe the house, gets as many of his seruants together as he can: If his prouision be but slender at home, he sendes presently abroad, in the meane while he calles for a cleane towell, the best table cloath, and wrought napkins. But the maide answers him that he can haue none. Then vp to his wife goes he againe, and tels her that his friends doe intreate her to come downe and bate their companie, shewing her what a shame it is, and how discourteously they will take it if she come not: And finally, he useth all the fairest speeches that he can to haue her come, and to welcome and entertaine them for his credites sake. Say in faith (quoth she) I will not come, they are too great states for my companie, and no doubt they would scoone a poore woman as I am: It may be she will goe, but in such sort, and with such a countenance, that it had bene better for him she had not come at all, for his friends will somewhat perceiue by her looks, and gesture, that howsoeuer they be welcome to the good man, she had rather haue their rowne then their company. But if she refuse to come (as it is the more likely) then will he aske her for the best towell, table-cloth and napkins. Napkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad already be not good enough for greater and better men then they are: when my brother or any of my kinsmen come, which are I wis their equals in euery respect, they can be content to be serued with them: but were these your guesstes neuer so great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life should lie on it: for since morning I haue lost my keyes of the great chest where all the linnen lies: I pray you bid the maide looke for them, for in good truth I know not what I haue done with them, and no maruell, for I haue so much to doe, that I know not how to bestir my selfe: well I wotte, I haue spoiled my selfe with continuall care and trouble.

Qblyer, lyer.

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Now in good faith (quoth he) you haue dressed me fairely, but it is no matter: Before God the breake open the chest. Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would for my part you would breake all the chestes in the house. The poore man hearing her in these termes, knowes not well what to doe, but takes that which he next lightes on, and therefore shifts as well as he can: he causeth his guests to sit downe at the table, and because the bare then a breach is on tilt, and therefore not very good, he bids one of the seruants breache a new barrell and fill some fresh drinke, but then there is neither tap nor spigget to be found, for his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner he calls for chesse, and fruite, but there is none in the house, so that he is faine to send to the neighbours for the same, or else be utterly destitute: meane while his boy being at the table with the guests, at last tels them how his mistresse faines her selfe sicke, because she is not pleased with their maisters comming. Well when bed time comes, he can get no cleane shates nor pillow-beeres, because forsooth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lie in those that be foule, and haue bene long laine in. The next morning they get them gone betimes, seeing by the good wiues countenance that they are nothing welcome. By the way their Lackies tell them what the Gentlemans boy reported, whereat they laught hartily, yet finde themselves agréued, holwing neuer to be his guest any more. The husband also, getting him vp betimes in the morning, goes presently to his wife, and thus begins: By Iesus wife, I muse what you meane to vse me thus. I know not how to liue with you. Then she replies saying: Now God for his mercy, am I so troubled some? God wat I am euery day (poore soule) troubled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens, I must card, I must spin, & continually keepe the house, looke to the seruants, and neuer sit still, but toying vp and downe to shorten my daies, and make me die before my time, and yet I cannot haue one houres rest, or quietnes with you, but you are alwaies bawling, & doe nothing your selfe, but spend & wast your goods
and

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and mine with odde Companions. What odde Companions (saith hee) as though you knowe not that these are such men, as can either much further, or much hinder me: It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distrust of such persons. Whereupon, shee takes occasion to raise and solbe all the day long; the man being wearied with her waitwaronesse, and Age (being hastned with griefe and sorrows) both vnawares ouer- take him. Briefly, he is in euery respect tormented: but such is his follie, that hee reckons his paines pleasure, and would not though he might be againe at libertie, out of Lobs Pound, or if he would it is now too late; so he must of force continue there, in Care, Thought, and Miserie, till Death make an ende of him and them together.

CHAP. VII.

¶ The humor of a couetous minded Woman.

The next humor belonging to a Woman is, when the Husband is matched to a modest ciuil woman, who is nothing giuen to that thwarting and crossing humour whereof I spake before. But be she good or bad, this is a generall rule many wiues hold and stedfastly belieue, that their owne Husbands are worst of all others. It oft happens that when they match together they are both young, & entertaine each other with mutual delights, so much as may be, for a yeare or two, or longer; till the vigo^r of youth grow colde. But the woman drops not so soone as the man; the reason whereof is, because she takes no care, thought, nor griefe, breakes not her sleepe, and troubles not her head as hee doeth, but doth wholly addict her thoughts to pleasure and solace. I denie not, that when a Woman is with Child, shee bides many times great paines, and is often verie ill at ease, and at the time of her deliuerance, shee is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse daunger of death: But all this is nothing to the Husbands troubles, on whose handes alone restes the whole charge, and waight of

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maintaining the house, and dispatching all matters, which is oftentimes intangled so with controuersies, and so thwarted with crosse fortune, that the poore man is tormented with all variation of minde.

Being thus wearied, and as it were woone away with continuall griefe, troublous cogitations, toyle and trauell, haue no minde on any other pleasure; whereas shee on the other side: is as lustie as euer she was: means while his stocke decays, and his state growes worse and worse: and as that diminisheth, so must he perforce, shorten her allowance, and maintenance, which is almost as great a Corosiuue to her, as the former. You may be well assured, that this change in him, makes her also change her countenance; from Mirth and cherefulness, to lowering Melancholie, seeking occasions of disagements, and vse them in such sort, that their former loue and kindnes was not so great, as are now their brayles, iarres, and discords. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the Woman by this meanes wastes and consumes all, giuing leauidly away her Husbands goods, which hee with great paines and cares hath gotten. The Good-man, he goes euery way as neare as hee can, and warily containes himselfe within his bounds, casting vp what his yearely Reuenues are, or what his gaine is by his profession, bee it MERCHANTIZE or other, and then what his expences be; which he finding greater then his commings in, begins to bite the lip, and becomes very peniue: his Wife and he being afterwards priuate toget her in their chamber, he speaks thereof vnto her in this manner. I say Wife, I much marvel how it comes to passe that our gods goe away thus, I know not how: I am sure I am as carefull as a man can be, I can not finde in my heart to bestow a new coate on my selfe, and all to saue monie. By my troth Husband, saith she, I do as much maruell at it as you: I am sure for mine owne parte, that I goe as neere in Housekeeping euery way as I can.

To be short, the poore-man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill carriage, after long care and thought, concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill Fortune, which keeps him doleene, and crosseth all his actions with contrary successe, but it may be that in proceesse of time, some friend of his (being more
cleare

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deare sighted in the matter, perceiuing all goes not well, doeth priuily informe him thereof, who being astonished at his report, gets him home with a heauie countenance. which the Wife seeing, and knowing herselfe guiltie, begins presently to doubt the worst, and perhappes getteth shrewdly at the authoꝝ thereof: but howsoeuer, shee will take such an order, that she will be sure to escape the hunt wellenough.

The God-man will not presently make any wordes hereof vnto her, but deferre it a while, and trie in the meane time, whether he can (of himselfe gather any further likelihood; for which purpose hee will tell her, that he must needs ride some tenne or twelue miles out of Towne, about some earnest business. Good faith husband (saith she, I had rather you should send your man, and stay at home your selfe. Not so wise (saith he) but I will be at home againe my selfe within these three or foure dayes. Having told her this tale, he makes as though he toke his iourney, but doth priuily lye in Ambush in such a place, where hee may know whatsoeuer is done in the house: But shee smelling his drift, sends word to her sweet heart, that he doe not come in any case, and all the time of his dissembled absence, shee carries her selfe, that it giues no likelihood of suspicion: which the silly man seeing, comes out of his Ambush, enters his house, making as if then he were returned from his iourney: and whereas befoze he looked, now hee shewes a cheerefull countenance, being verily perswaded that his Friends report is a mere lye, and that hee thinks so much the rather, because she doth at his comming run to meete him, with such a shew of loue, and doth so embrace and kisse him, that it seemes impossible so kinde a Creature should play false: But long after (being in Bedde together,) he thus speakes to her;

Wife, I haue heard reported certaine wordes that like me not. Good faith Husband (saith she) I know not what is the cause thereof: I haue noted this great while, that you haue bin very pensieue, and was afraid that you had had some great losse, or that some of your Friends had bin kild, or taken by the Spaniards. No (saith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which grieues mee more then any such matter can doe. Now God for

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his mercy (quoth shee) I pray you Husband let me know what it is. Mary wife (saith he) a friend of mine told me that you kept company with R R. the veriest Ruffian in all the Towne, and a many other matters be told me of you. Hereat shee crossing her selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus: Woe Husband if this bee all, then I pray you giue over your peniuenes: I would to God I were as free from all other sinnes as I am from that: When laying one hand on her head, she thus proceeds: I will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the Diuell had all that is vnder my hand, if I euer touched any mans mouth sauing yours, or some of our friends and kinsmen, or such at least as you haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In troth I am glad that you haue tolde me; I had verily thought it had bene some greater matter, but I know well enough wherupon these speeches grow, and I would that you did likewise know, what moued him to speake them, I know you would not a little maruell, because he hath alwaies professed such friendship towards you. In good faith I am nothing sozpy that he hath awaked the sleeping Dog. What meane you by that word (qd. he:) Nay (quoth she) be not desirous to know it, you shall knowe it some enough some other time. Wirlady (saith he) I le know it now. By my troth Husband (saith shee) I was ofte wonderfully angrie when you brought him in hither, yet I forbore to speake of it, because I saw you loued him so well. But speake now (saith he) and tell me what the matter is: Nay nay (quoth she) it skills not greatly. Ooe so wiife (saith the good man) tell me, for I will know it. Then takes she him about the necke, and sweetly kissing him, saith thus: Ah my deere Husband, what Villaines are these that would seeme to abuse you, whome I honoz and loue aboue all men in the worlde. Well wiife (saith he) I pray thee tell me the man that so misuseth vs. In troth (quoth shee) that vile dissembling Traitor, that flattering tell tale, that put this badde report in your eares, whome you esteeme so much: reposing such great confidence in him, he is the only man and none but hee, that hath earnestly baged me any time this two yeares to commit follie with him, but God (I praise him) hath giuen mee grace, both to refuse him, and his offers,

Oh braue
dissembler.

Almost as bad
as Iudas kisses.

The Diuell
take the Lye,

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offers, although I were continually troubled and importuned by him: This when you thought he came hither so often for your sake, it was for this cause, for neuer a time that he came, but he was in hand with me to obtaine his filthy desire, till in the end I threatned to tell you of it, but I was loath to doe it, fearing to breake a quarrell betwixne you, so long as I was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any iniurie: beside, I had still a good hope, that he would at length giue ouer, this it was no fault of his that he sped not. Gods for my life (saith the good man) being in a great rage, what a treacherous villaine is this: I would neuer haue suspected any such matter in him, for I durst haue put my life in his hands. By this light, husband (saith she) if euer he come neere within the doores, or if euer I may know that you haue any talke with him, ile keepe house no longer with you. Ah deere husband, and with that she clips and cols him againe about the necke, should I be so dissoll as to abuse you in this sort: so swete, so amiable, and so kinde a man, who lets me haue my will in all things: God forbid I should liue so long to become a strumpet now. But for Gods sake husband forbid him your house, with whom this knaue hath flaundered me withall, yet I would the diuell had me if euer he made such motion to me, neuertheless by Gods grate he shall not come henceforth in any place where I am, and with that she begins to wepe, and hee (kinde soke) doth appease and comfort her, promising and swearing, that he will doe as she will haue him, saue onely that he will not forbid him his house, with whose companie the other had charged her, and withall hee vowes neuer to beleue any more of these reproches, nor so much as to hearken to any such tales againe, notwithstanding hee still feelles a scruple of suspicion in his conscience: Within a while he begins to fall at defiance with his honest friend, who informed him of his wifes wantonnesse, and hee seemes to bee so deeply besotted with her loue, that you would saye hee were transformed without inchauntment, into Acteons shape:

Thus is he
board through
the nose with
a cushion.

As kind as a
Sea-crab sea-
zing on a
dead carrion,

Amen.

his

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his charge of household still increaseth, he hath many children, and is perplexed on euery side : but his wife followes her pleasure farre more then before, for though it be neuer so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, because they know that he will not beleue them (and which is more ridiculous) he that abuseth him most, shall be best welcome vnto him of any. To be short, age will ouertake him, and perhaps pouertie, from the which he shall neuer be able to raise himselfe. For here the great god and pleasure, that he hath gotten by entering into Lobs pound, euery man mockes him, some saith it is pittie because he is an honest man : others say it is not a matter to be sorrowed for, sith it is the common rule of such. They of the better sort will scoone his company : thus liues he in paine, griefe and disgrace, which he takes for great pleasure, and therein will continue till death cut him off.

CHAP. VIII.

The humour of a woman that still desires to be gadding abroad.

The next humoꝛ of a woman, is, when the husband hath bene in Lobs pound some five or sixe yeares, part whereof he hath spent in such pleasures as wedlocke doth at the first afford, but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some three or foure children, but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worse of this child then she was of any other. Whereat the poor man grieues not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which she longes for : well, the time of her lying downe doubles nere, and she is wonderfully out of temper, so that it is greatly feared that she will hardly escape. Then falls he on his knees and praises deuoutly for his wife, who some after is brought to bed, wherefore he is not a little Iocund, making sure account that God hath heard his prayers. The Gossips, kinswoman, and neighbours, come in troupes to visit and reioyce for her safe deliuerie. She for her part wants no good cherishing, whereby she recouers her strength, and is as fresh and lustie as ever she was.

After

The bachelers banquet.

After her Churching, she invited by some of her Neighbours, who also invites sine or for others of her Neighbours and friends, who have received and feasted with all kindness, which Banquet both perhaps cost her Husband more then would have kept the house a whole fortnight: Amongst other, she propounds a question, and makes a match to goe all together to a certaine faire, which will be within ten dayes at such a place, to the which place they shall have a most hane and pleasant journey by reason of the faire weather, for they will alwayes conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yeare, and she takes upon her to make this motion, chiefly in regard of her Gossip, which was lately brought abed, that shee may after her long paine and trouble somewhat recreate and refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying she knows not how to get leave of her Husband: What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand: Tully Gossip (saith another) stand not upon that, we will all goe and be merry, and wee will have with vs my Gossip G. T. my Cohn H. S. though perhaps he be nothing kinde to her: But this is their ordinary phrase, and they undertake this journey, because they cannot so well obtaine their purposes at home, being too nere their Husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heavy countenance; the Good-man asketh what she alleth. Harry (quoth she) the Child is very ill at ease, (though he were in never better health since hee was bozne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the Nurse tells me, he hath refused the Dugge these two dayes, although she durst not say so much till now. We hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a little soyy, goes presently to see his Child, and weepes for pittie.

Well, Night comes, to bed they goe, and then she fetching a sigh, begins thus: Husband, I see you have forgotten me. How meane you that (saith hee?) Harry (quoth shee) doe you not remember that when I was in Childbed, you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a faire, with my Gossips and Neighbours to make merrie, and there be my selfe, but now I heare you not talke of it. In troth My wife (saith hee) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of

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business, that I haue no leisure to thinke on any thing elsse: but there is no time past yet, the faine will not bee this fortnight. By my troth (qd. she) I shall not be well unless I goe: Well wife (saith he) content your selfe; for if I can by any meanes get so much money ye shall go: You know it is not little that we shall spend there: yea, more I wis then will bee my ease to lay out. Good Chyill (qd. she) is it now come to that? You promise me absolutely, without either ifs or ands: before God I will goe, whether you will or no: for there goes my Mother, my Cousin T. my Cousin B. and my Cousin R. and his wife. If you will not let me goe with them, I know not with whom you will let me goe. Hee, hearing her thus willfull, thinke it best for his owne quietnes to let her goe, though he straine his purse somewhat the more. The time comes, he hires horses, buyes her a new riding Colours, and doth furnish her according to her mind, peraduenture there goes in their company a lusty Gallant, that will scollicke it by the way on her Husbands cost, for his purse must pay for all, it may be he will goe himselfe, because he hath neuer a man, or else cannot spare him from his work. But then is the poore man notably perplexed, for shee will of purpose trouble him for euery trifle, more then shee would doe to another, because it doeth her good to make a Iudge of him (and so much the rather) that hee may not afterwards haue any desire to goe abroade with her againe.

Sometimes her stirrop is too long; sometimes too short; and he must still a'light to make it fit: Sometimes shee will weare her Cloake, sometimes not, and then hee must carry it: When finds she fault with her horses trotting, which makes her sick, and then shee will alight and walke on foote, leaving him to leade the horses: Within a while after they come to a water, then must he be troubled to helpe her; yea againe. Sometimes shee can eate nothing that is in the ynnere, then must hee (being neare all day with riding, trudge by and doone all the Colours, to finde something that will fit her stomacke; All which notwithstanding, shee will not be quiet: and not shee onely, but her Cousins also, will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying, that hee is not worthy to be a womans man. But he is so iured to these rang-

ling,

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Kings, that be care not for all that is colonging to the
 well, at length to the point they come, and then must be
 play the begger in going before her, making as much raine for
 them as he can: when there is any thing to be done of people be-
 ing (very chary of his wife, lest she should be hurt or annoyed by
 thrusting.) Where moyle he like a horse, and sweates like a
 Bull, yet cannot all this please her. Some Dames of the com-
 panie, which are more suth in Colours then her god man, be-
 stowes money on gold Rings, Hats, silke Girdles, Jewels, or
 some such toys, yea, costly toys: which shee no longer sees, but
 presently she is on fire, untill she haue the like: Then must hee
 herein content her if he loue his owne ease, and haue he money
 or not, some shift must be made to satistie her humors. Well now
 imagine them going homewards, and thinke his paine is trouble
 no lesse then it was coming south, her Horse perhaps doth founde-
 der much, or trots too hard; which is peradventure by reason of
 a nail in his foote, or some other mischaunce. Then must hee per-
 force buy, or hyre another horse, & if he haue not money enough
 to doe so, then must hee let her ride on his, and hee trot by her side,
 like a Lackey. By the way she will aske for twenty things, for
 milke, because she cannot alway with their drinke; for Weares,
 Plums, & Cherries: When they come nere a Towne, he must
 run before to chuse out the best Inne; euen anon as she rides,
 she will of purpose let fall her wand, her Hooke, her Clones, or
 some thing else for him to take up, because she will not haue him
 idle. When they are come home, shee will for a fortnight toge-
 ther doe nothing else but gad up and downe amongst her Gar-
 sips, to tell them how many gay and straunge things shee hath
 seene, all that hath passed by the way, in going and coming, but
 especially of her god man, whom shee will be sure to blame: say-
 ing, that hee did her no pleasure in the worlde, and that (shee poore
 soule) being sicke and wearie, could not get him to helpe her, or
 to prouide any thing for her that shee liked: And finally, that
 hee hath had no more care of her, then if shee had bene a meere
 stranger.

But her poore self, finding at her returne, all things out of
 order, is not a little troubled to set them in due frame againe,

The bachelars banquet

and toyles exceedingly at his labour, that hee may reuerne his charges which he hath bene at in this yollanie. But she, what for Gossiping, for proue, and iolines will not let her hands to any thing; and yet if ought goe well, she will say it was through her handfulness; and god vs wiferis: yf otherwise, then will she scold, and lay the fault thereof on him, although it be her owne doings. To be short, hauing thus gotten a baine of Chaulding, she will neuer leave it; and hereby the poore man will be utterly spoiled; for both his substance shall be waisted, his limbes through labour, also with Aches, his fate with the Colic, and Age comes on him before his time, yet as though this were not euill enough, she will be continually brawling, scolding, and complaining, how she is broken through Child-bearing. Thus is the silly man by to the eares in Lobs-Pound, being on each side beset with care and trouble, which hee takes for pleasure, and therein languish whiles hee liues.

CHAP. IX.

The humour of a curst Queene, married
to a froward Husband.

The next humor that is incident to a Woman, is, when the Husband hauing entred very young into Lobs-pound, and there fettered himselfe by his too much folly; for a baine hope of ticklish delights, which lasted but for a yeare or two, hath matched himselfe with a very froward and peruerse woman (of which sort there are too many) whose whole desire is to be distressed and to teare the Brerthes; or at least to beare as great a sway as himselfe. But hee being craftie, and with all crabbed, will in no wise suffer this usurped soueraigntie, but in sundrie manners withstands it. And there hath bin great strife and arguing about this matter betwene themselves, and notwithstanding some battels; but do she what she can, either with her tongue or hands, notwithstanding their long contemporie; which hath perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeares, yet is still victorious, and holds his right; but you must thinke that his strining

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For if all this while, hee hath done no small trouble and vexation vnto him, besides all other afflictions; All to which, or part thereof, he hath likewise submitted: Vntill it be thought, he hath perchance three or foure Children all married, and by reason of the great paines and trauell that hee hath taken in bringing them vp, providing them portions, maintaining his wife, and making his stocke, or at least keeping it from being diminished, and liuing with credit amongst his neighbours: At last it may be hee hath gotten the Colic, or some other dangerous disease, and withall is growne olde, and thereby feeble; so that being set he can hardly rise, through an Ache that he hath got in his Armes or legges: When is their long waite come to an end, and the case (as Plowden saith) cleane altered; For his wife being younger then hee, and as frolicke as euer shee was, will now be sure to haue her owne will in despyght of his beards: Whereby the Doze man, which hath maintained the Combate so long, is now utterly put downe: his owne Children, which before hee kept in awe well enough, will now take heede to themselves, and if hee reprove them for their leandnes and disobedience, hee will maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needs bee a great griefe vnto him.

But besides all this, he is in doubt of his Seruants; for they likewise neglect their former duty, and leane altogether to their Spittrelle; so that hee Doze man, which now by reason of his sickness, and feeblenes of bodie, hath more neede of attendance then euer he had, shall haue but very little or none at all; For though hee be as wise and as carefull as euer he was, yet sith he cannot bestirre himselfe to follow them as hee was wont, they contemne, and make no more reckoning of him, then if he were a meeke foole.

Then peraduenture his eldest Sonne, thinking that his Father liues too long: will take vpon him to guide the house, and disposing all things at his pleasure, as (if his Father were become an Innocent, and could no longer looke to things as hee was wont;) Iudge you whether the Good man seeing himselfe thus abused by his wife, Children, and Seruants, be grieved or not. If he purpose to make his will, they will seeke all

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meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they feare an ynkling, that hee will bestowe somewhat on the parish, or will not bequeath his wife so much as he would haue.

So hee sheweth, that they may make an ende of him the sooner, they will manie times leaue him in his Chamber halfe a day and more without meate, fire, or ought else, not one of them comming to see what hee wants, or to doe him any service: his wife is weary of him by reason of his spitting, coughing, and groaning.

All the loue and kindenesse, which hee had in former times shewed vnto her, is quite forgotten: but his wife for superiortie, and his crabbednes towards her, (when shee had iustly moued him,) this shee can still as well remember, as when it was first done: Neither will she spare to prate thereof to her neighbors: telling them that hee hath bene a bad man, and that shee hath led such a life with him, that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, shee could neuer haue endured to keepe house with so crabbed a Churle.

She will likewise boldly reproach, and twist him in the tawth with those former matters, for it doth yet shrewdly strike in her stomack, that she could not till now be spirituelle. But he that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her vnder; who, seeing him now in his distresse and weakness, takes advantage, and continues his bad vsage: seeing also his Children, which should feare and reuerence him, taking part with their Mother, being taught and set on by her: seeing this (I say, and being no lesse angrie then grieved, hee calles some of them in a rage; and when they are come before him, thus bebeginnes he to his wife.

Wife, you are she, whom by the Lawes of God and Man, I should loue and reuerence more then any thing else in the worlde; and you on the other side, should beare the like affection to mee: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne conscience, I tell you I am not well pleased with your using of mee thus: I thinke you take mee still for the Master of the house: as before you haue done, but whether you thinke so or not, be sure I will be Master while I liue, yet (you thank you) so vse me, and account of me in very slight manner: I haue alwaies lo-

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ned you well, neuer suffered you to lacke that which was mete: I haue in like sort loued, & also maintained your Children and mine, according to my degree, and now both you and they doe very unkindly requite me.

Why (saith shee) what would you haue vs to doe: What doe the best we can, but you cannot tell your selfe what you would haue: The better we vse you, and the more we tende you, the worse you are: But you were neuer other; alwayes brawling, and neuer quiet, neuer pleased full nor fasting: I thinke neuer woman was so long troubled with a crooked Pottle as I haue bene.

Oh Dame (saith he) leaue these words, I pray you; then turning him to his eldest sonne, he saide: Sonne, I haue marvelled at your behauiour of late toward mee, and I tell you I am not well pleased therewith: You are my eldest, and shall be mine heire, if you behaue your selfe as a child ought to doe, But you begin already to take state vpon you, and to dispose of my goods at your pleasure: I would not wish you to bee so forward, but rather while I liue, to serue and obey mee, as it becomes you to doe: I haue bene no bad father vnto you, I haue nothing impaired or diminished, but increas'd that which was left me by my father, which if you doe your dutie to mee (as I did mine to him) I will leaue to you after my decease as hee left to mee: but if you continue in your stubbornesse and disobedience, before God (I sweare,) I will not bestow one pennie or crosse vpon thee.

Wherehis Wife begins againe to thwart him; Why, what would you haue him doe? It is impossible for any ere to please you; he shall haue enough to doe that shall alwayes tend you: This it is high time that you and I were both in Heauen, you know not your selfe: what would you haue? I haueuall what you ayle. Well, well, (saith hee) I pray you bee quiet, doe not maintaine him thus against mee, but it is alwayes your order.

After this, the Father and Sonne departing, consult together, and conclude, that hee is become a Child againe, and because hee hath threatned to disinherite them, they resolve that no man shall bee suffered to come and speake with him:

his

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This Sonne takes vpon him more then before, being borne out by his Father: who together with him, makes euerie one be lieue that the Poore man is become childish, and that hee hath lost both his sence and memozie.

If any of his honest friendes and former acquaintance, which were wont to resort vnto him, come now to aske for him, his Wife will thus answer them. Alas he is not to be spoken with: and when he demaunds the cause thereof, doubting hee is dangerously sicke, Ah good Neighbour (quoth she) he is become an Innocent, euen a Childe againe; so that I poore soule, must guide all the House, and take the whole charge of all things vpon me, hauing none to helpe me, but God be praised for all.

In good (saith the other) I am very sozie to heare this, and doe much maruell at it; for it is not long since I saw him, and spoke with him, and then he was in as good memozie, and spake with as good sence and reason as euer he did before. In trueth (saith she) he is now as I tell yee.

Thus doth shee wrong and slander the Poore man, which hath alwayes liued in good credite, and kept his Household in very good order: but you may be well assured, that hee seeing himselfe in his Age thus despised and iniured, and being not able to remedie himselfe, nor stirre without helpe, from the place where he is, thereby to acquaint his friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redresse it; is not a little grieved, vbered, and tormented in his minde, with sorrow and anger: So that it is a great maruaile he falls not into dispaire; for it is enough to make a Saint become impatient to bee vsed thus, by those which should obey, serue, and honour him. And in my opinion on this is one of the greatest Corrosiues that any man can feele: such is the issue of this great haste and extreame desire to bee in Loves-Pound, where he must now remaine perforce, till Death doe ende (at once) both his life and languishing.

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CHAP. XIII.

The humour of a Woman given to all kinde of pleasures.

A other humoꝝ incident to a Woman by nature is, when the Husband (thinking that she dothke was of all estates the happiest, and altogether replenished with delight and pleasure) because hee hath some of his friends, who for a while after they were married, were very cheerefull and iocund, neuer ceaseth toyling and rannoyling himselfe till he haue gotten into Lobs-Pounds, wherein he is presently caught fast like a Bird in a net: for this comparison, if we do examine the particulars thereof, doth very fitly resemble his estate. The little Birdes which flye from tree to tree, and from field to field to some meate, when they see a great deale of Coine spilt on the ground, thinke themselves well apaide, and without any feare come thither to feede thereon, picking vp the graines of Coine, but alas they are deceived, for on a sudden the net is drawne, and they are all fast tyed by the legs, and thence carried in a sacke or panier one by one another to the fowlers house, then cought up in a Cage. Wh hore happy wou'd they thinke themselves, if they were againe at their former libertie to flye whither they list, but they wish to late: yet were this all the euill that they should endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shall some after haue their necks wrung off, and their little bodies spitted, to be made meate for men to eate.

But they are herein farre moze simple then the Birdes, for they being fast in Lobs-Pounds, are so besotted with their owne sorrowes, that they haue no power to free themselves. So likewise they haue no will to doe it. But to proceede, the Wiffe not louing her husband, for some defect which is in him, that shee may haue some colour for that she doth, makes her Mother and other friends which blame her for it, belient, that her husband is bewitcht, and by reason of some Sorcery, made for the most part impotent; Whereupon she complains of her ill fortune,

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tune, resembling it to those, which hauing the Cup at their noses, cannot drinke: meane while shee hath a stoute heart in a coynor, who is not betwitched, who vseth her company so long, and with so little heede, that in the ende her Husband perceiues it, and falling into the baine of Jealousie, beates her wel sauourously, and keepes a soule fire both with blowes and words, so that shee not liking his vsage, giues him the slip, but then is hee cleane out of patience; and so Husbonds in this taking are so mad, that they neuer lin seeking them, and would giue halfe they are worth to finde her againe: who hauing thus plaide her pageant, and seeing her Husbonds humors, compacts with her another, whose good will she will be sure to get by one meanes or other, (whereas at the first shee will perhaps thinke hardly of her departure from her Husband) she doth as I say, so handle the matter with her, that shee will make the Good-man beliene her Daughter hath bene all this while at home with her, and that she came to shunne his bad vsage, who (had shee taried with him till then, had bene lamed for euer.

Before God (quoth she) I had rather you should restore her againe to mee, then beate her thus without cause, for I knowe that you suspect her wrongfully, and that shee hath neuer offended you: I tois I haue straitly examined her about it, but if she would haue bene naught, you did enough to prouoke her: By Gods passion I thinke few women could haue borne it; Well (it may be) that upon these or the like terms he takes her againe: it may bee also, that they are both desirous to be dinorded, each accusing other, and seeking to winde themselves againe out of Lobs Pound, but in vaine: For, either the causes that they alledge are not thought sufficient by the Iudge, how hard so euer they pleade, but must of forces continue still together, are laugh'd to scorn of all that heares the cause: or if they be separated, yet will not all this set them free, but rather plunge them in deeper then before, but neither of them can marrie whiles the other liues: and their Chastitie so byttle (especially hers,) that holde it cannot, no, long endure.

so hee who was wont to be so scollicke, must needes continue

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due so still; say peradventure, being now without controlment, followes her euill and leauy life, more freely then before: and whereas she was but earely a private Deuane, this is now common in the way of God-fellowshippe; or else some lustie Gallant takes her into his house, and shelters her by his nose, which must needs be vnto him an exceeding inward griefe, and an open disgrace and shame in the eyes of the world: and which is worse, hee knowes not how in the world to remedie it, but must perforce endure both, while this miserable life doth last.

CHAP. IX.

The humour of a Woman to get her Daughter a Husband, hauing made a little Wanton escape.

The next humour that a Woman is addicted vnto, is, when a lustie young Gallant riding at pleasure vp and downe the Countrey, but especially to those places of sports and pleasure where the finest Dames and dainty Coyles mate, who can finely mince their pleasures, hauing their Tongues trained vp to all kinde of Amorous chat; in which delightfull exercises, this Donker both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing vp, and naturall inclination, takes a great felicitie in such baine companie: and so much the rather, because he findes himselfe (alwayes welcommed, and kindly entertained to such places) and the reason is, the comeliness of his person, his amiable countenance, and quaint behaviour: for who so euer hath these good helpes, shall want no fauour at Womens handes: It may bee also, that his Parents are still liuing, and hee their onely ioy, they hauing perhaps no Childs but him, so that all their most delight is in maintaining him bzanelly. It may bee also, that he is newly come to his Landes, and loues to see fa- shions, though it cost his purse neuer so largely. If any Gentlewoman offer any kindenesse, hee is ready to requite it: and

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At length through long prancing to many places, he lights on one that doth exceedingly please his eye, and inflame his heart, shee is perhaps Daughter to some Gentle-man, some Citizen, or some worthy Farmer. She hath a cleane complexion, a fine proportion, and wanton eye, a hainy brow, and a sharpe wit, by reason of all which good gifts, shee is growne very famous. She hath bene wooed, sued, and courted by the bravest Gallants in that countrey, of whome perhaps some one being more forward and couragious then the rest, hath offered her such kindnesses, as stickes by her ribs a good while after, and would needs inforce this courtesie with such importunitie, that shee had not the power to resist it: for a woman that hath her five wittes, if she be withall of a cheerfull sanguine complexion, cannot be so unkinde, or so hard-hearted, as to dente, or repulse the petition of an amorous Friend, if he doe any thing earnestly prosecute the same. And (to be plaine) be shee of what Complexion soener, shee will be nothing slacke to graunt such a sute.

But to returne to our purpose, by reason of her tender compassion, and kinde acceptance of this proffered service, it so falls out she hath plaide false, then is there no other shift but to keepe it both secret and close, and to take such order as they best can, for smothering up of the matter; he that hath done the deede being a poyse young man, though proper of bodie, and perhaps can dance very well, by which good qualitie he wonne her fauour, and within a while after, croopt the flower of her goldenhead: hee (I say) after a cheeke or two, and no farther matter, (least this piny scape should be openly knowne) is warned from coming any more to the house, or frequenting her company to what soener.

But now you must note, that shee being but a simple Gyle, betwene foureene and fiftene yeares of Age, nothing expert, but rather a novice in such matters, and hauing bene but lately deceiued, knowes not her selfe how it is with her: But her mother which by long experience hath gotten great Iudgement, doth by her colour, her complaining of paine at her hart and stomack, with other like tokens perceiues it well enough, and hauing (as before I saide) callide the author of the action, When
takes

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takes the her Daughter aside, and scholes her so, that in the end they considered that hee hath bene dallying with her, but shee knowes not whether to any purpose or not. *Peas* saith her *Spe* t. er, it is to such purpose (as by these signes I know very well) that you haue thereby both thained your selfe and all our friends, and spoyled your marriage quite and cleane.

To be short, hauing somewhat chid her after the common order, for hauing no more respect nor care of her honestie, (yet not chiding very extremely, because shee knowes the frailtie of youth by her owne former experience) she concludes thus comfortably: sith it is done, and cannot be altogether remedied, she will seekie (both to hide and salve the matter as well as shee can) charging her Daughter to set a good countenance on it, least it should be suspected, and to follow her counsell and commandement in all things: whereunto the poore Maide willingly consenteth, then the Mother promises thus:

You knowe *Haister T. A.* that commeth hit her so often, hee is you see a proper Gentleman, and a rich Heire, to morrowe hee hath appointed to be here againe; Loke that you giue him good entertainment, and shewe him good countenance. When you see me and the rest of our Guests talking and discoursing together, euer and anon cast your Eye on him, in the kindest and louingest manner that you can: If hee seeme desirous to speake with you, hee not say, but heare him willingly, answers him courteously. If hee intreate none of you, tell him that you know not what it meanes, and that you haue no desire at all to know it; yet thanke him for his good will: for that woman is too uncourteous and vnciuill, which will not brouthsafe the hearing of gentle answering to those that loue her, and wish her well.

If hee offer you Money, take none in any case; if a Ring, or a Gyddie, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindly and with great thanks: but if hee bryge it on you twise or thrise, take it; telling him, sith that hee will needs bestowe it on you, you will weare it for his sake. Lastly, when hee takes his leaue, aske him when hee will come againe: These instructions being thus giuen, and the blot laide for the fetching

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in of this kind. *And into the hands of the*

The next day he cometh; and is on all hands more kindly welcome and entertained: after dinner, having had great cheare, the one or other saies intalke with the other Guests; and this frolicke should get him as neere to her Daughter as hee can, and while the others are hard in chat, he takes her by the hand, and thus begins to converse her.

Gentlewoman, I would to God you knewe my thoughts. Your thoughts Sir (saith she) how should I knowe them, except you tell them mee: It may be you thinke some thing that you are loth to tell. Nay so (saith he) yet I would you knewe it without telling. But that (saith she smiling) is impossible. When (quoth he) if I might doe it without offence, I would adventure to tell you them. So y^e (saith she) you may freely speake your pleasure: for I doe so much assure mee of your honestie, that I knowe you will speake nothing that may procure offence.

When thus (saith he) I acknowledge without fainting, that I am farre unworthy of so great a favour, as to bee accepted for your Servant, friend, and Lover, which art so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say, you are replenished with all the good gifts that Nature can plant in any mortall creature: But if you would vouchsafe me this undeserved grace, my good will, diligence, and continuall forwardnesse to serve and please you should never faile: but I would therein equall the most loyall Lover that ever lived, I would esteeme you more then any thing else, and tender more your good name and credit then mine owne.

Good Sir (quoth she) I heartily thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters; for I neither knowe what Love is, nor yet care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my Mother teacheth me now adayes. Why (saith hee) if it please you she shall knowe nothing of it; yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriage to one Master G. R. How say you to that (quoth shee?) Marie (thus answeres the Gentleman) If you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your Servant, I would never marry, but only relie upon your favour.

But

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But that (saith she) should be no promise to either of vs both, and beside it would be to my reproch, which I had not thought you would make. May (qd. he) I had rather die then forsake your discredit. Well sir (saith she) speake no more hereof, for if my Mother should perceiue it, I were verie much vndone. And it may be her Mother makes her a signe to giue ouer, fearing that shee doth not play her part well.

At the breaking vp of their amorous Parley, hee conueyes into her hand a gold Ring, or some such toy, desiring her to take it, and haue it for his sake: which at the first according to her Mothers precepts shee doth refuse; but vpon his more earnest wiling of it, she is content to take it in the way of honestie, and not on any promise or condition of any farther matter; When it was brought to this passe, the mother makes motion of a journey to be made the next morning, some ten or twelue miles off, to visite, or feast with some friend, or to some faire, or what soeuer other occasion presents it selfe: To this motion they all agree, and afterwards sit downe to supper, where hee is placed next the Daughter, who carries her selfe so toward him with her piercing glaunces, that the young Petre is set on fire therewith; Well, morning comes, they mount on Horse backe, and by the opinion of them all, there is neuer a Horse in the company that can carry double but his; So the Gull is appointed to haue the Maiden ride bejnde him, whereof he is not a little proude: and when hee seles her holde fast by the middle, (which shee doth to stay her selfe the better) he is euen raiued with toy.

After their returning home, which perhaps will be the same night, the Mother taking her Daughter aside, questions with her, touching all that had passed betwene the amorous gallant and her; which when her Daughter hath rehearsed, then proceeds the willie Grandame thus: If he Court thee any more (as I knowe thee will,) then make him answere that thou hast hearde thy Father and mee talke of matching thee with Master G. R. but that thou hast no desire as yet to bee married: If he then offers to make thee his Wife, and vse any comparisons of his worth and wealth, as though wee were enery way as good as he, thanke him for his good will and kindnes, and tell him

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him that thou wilt speake with mee about it, and that for thy stoune part thou couldst find in thy hart to haue him to thy hand rather then any man else: vpon this lesson the Daughter sleepes, reuoluing it all night in her minde.

The next morning shee waikes into the Garden, and this lusty Donkeher folloves, when hauing giuen her the time of the day, he falls to his former sute. Shee willes him to giue ouer such talks, or she will leaue his companie: Is this the Lowe you beare me (qd. shee) to sake my dishonour? You knowe well enough that my Father and Mother are minded to bestowe mee otherwise.

Ah my swete Mistresse (saith hee) I would they did so farre fauour me herein, as they do him; I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without vaine gloze vtter it, that I am enery way his equall. D'st, (answers shee) I would hee were like you. Ah swete Pistres (saith he) you deigne to thinke better of mee then I deserue: but if you would saccher boughsafe me the other fauour, I should esteeme my selfe most happie. In troth Sir, (saith she) it is a thing that I may not doe of my selfe, without the counsell and consent of my Parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they would not bee offended: But it would be so much the better if you breake the matter vnto them; and be sure, if they refferre the matter to mee, you shall speake so sone as anie. Shee being rauisht with these words, and giuing her infinite thanks, trots presently to the Mother, to get her god will.

To be short, (with some little adoe) the matter is brought about, euen in such sort as he would desire: they are straightway Contracted, and immediately Wedded, both because that her Friends feare that the least delay will preuent all, and because he is so hot on the spurre, that he thinks enery houre a year: til it be done. Well, the Wedding night comes, to her in flee behaues her selfe so (by her Mothers counsell) that he dares sweare on the Bible that hee had her Maidenhead.

Within a while after, it comes to his Friends eares, without whose knowledge he hath married himselfe, who are exceedingly sorrowfull, knowing shee was no more match for him, and it may be they

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they haue heard, withall of his waines humour: but as to there is no remedy, the knot is knit, and cannot be vnderdone: they must therefore haue patience perforce.

Well, hee brings his faire Bride home to his owne house, where (God wote) he hath had a small time of pleasure, for with in three or foure moneths after their spauilage, she is brought to Bed: And yet then in what taking the good man is? If he put her away, his shame will be publike, shee growes common, and hee not be permitted to marrie againe while shee liues, and if he keepe her still, loue her he cannot, suspect her he will, and she both hate him, and yett hope sake his ende: Finally, all the ioyes, pleasures, and delights which befoze time they had, are all turned to brawles, banning, cursing, and fighting. Thus is hee hampered in Lobs-Pound, where he must of force remaine, till death ende his liues miseries.

CHAP. XII.

The humour of a Woman being married with an ouerkinde Husband.

THERE is another humour incident to a Woman, which is, when a Young man hath turmoyled and tossed himselfe so long, that w much adoe he hath gotten into Lobs-pounds, and hath perhaps met with a Wife according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had beene better so: him to haue lighted on an other: yett hee likes her so well, that he would not haue mist her for any golde, for in his opinion there is no Woman aliuie like vnto her: hee hath a great delight to heare her speake, is proude of his match, and peraduenture is withall of so the pist nature, that hee hath purposed whollie to gouerne himselfe by her counsell and direction: so that if any one speake to him about a bargaine, or what so euer other business, he telles them that he will haue his wifes opinion in it: and if she be content, hee will goe through with it: if not, then will he stay in quiet. Thus is he as tame and pliable, as a Rack, an Asse to his keeper. If the Prince set forth an Amie,

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and she be unwilling that he should goe, who (you may thinke) will aske her leave, then must he stay at home, fight with so: the Countrey: But if she be at any time desirous to have his com(e) (which many times she likes better then his company) she wants no Journeyes to unploy him in, and hee is as ready as a Page to undertake them: If she chide, he answers not a word, generally, what soever she dooth, or how soever, hee thinks it it well done.

Judge now in what a case this Allie Caste is in; (ye not hee thinke you, finely dyest) that is in such subjection: The honestest Woman, and most modest of that Sex, if shee weare the Wretches; shee is so out of reason in taunting and controlling her Husband; so: this is their common fault, and be the never so wise, yet, because a Woman, scarce able to governe her selfe, much lesse her Husband, and all his affaires; so: were it not so, doubtles G.D. would have made her the head: which sith it is otherwise, what can be made preposterous, then that the Head should be governed by the foote? If then a wife and honest Womans superiortie be unseemely, and by de great inconveniences, &c: how is he dyest (thinks you) if hee light on a fond, wanton, and malicious Dame: Then (doubtles) hee is soundly sped; she will not stick to keep a sweet heart under his nose, yet is hee so blinde that hee can perceiue nothing, but so: more securitie, shee will many times send him packing beyond sea, about some odde errand, which shee will buzze in his eares, and hee will performe it at her pleasure, albeit shee send him forth at midnight, in Raine, Haile, or snowe, so: hee must be a man fit so: all weathers: Their Children (if they haue any) must needs be brought vp, apparellled, fedde, and taught, onely according to her pleasure: and one speciall point of their learning, is alwaies to make no account of their Father: If any of their Children be Daughters, shee will marry them according to her minde, to whom shee list, when shee list, and giue with them what doctrie shee list, without acquainting him therewith, till shee haue concluded the match; and then shee telles him, (not to haue his consent) but as a spaißer may tell his Deuout, to giue him direction how to behaue himselfe to deale therein: Finally, shee
o:der

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orders all things as shee thinks best herselfe, making no more account of him, (especially if her bee in yeares,) then men doe of an olde Horse which is past labour.

Thus is he murther'd by in Lobs, Pound, plunged in a Sea of
sates, and Coziness, yet her (kind's) froly games himselfe most
happie in his unhappines, where he must not perforce remaine
while his life doth last, and great pittie if we're her should want
it, sith he likes it so well.

CHAPTER XIII

The humour of a Woman whose Husband
is gone beyond the Seas vpon
some businesse

Another humor of a woman is, when the husband hath bene married to her of eight years, and he is old, and as hee thinks he hath met with a good wife as any man can haue: with whom hee hath continued all the longest time to the great delights and pleasures: yet a daughter is a

Gentleman, and that he is desirous to purchase some of the fol-
 lowing Armes; and in this humour he is resolved to make
 a Stepps abroad; and not to carry alwayes like a coward
 by Wone, by the smoke of his owne chimney: but when he is
 ready to depart, the hearing hee shakes blubbered with tears,
 falls about his necke, collar, and wither, and embraces him, then
 weeping, sighing, and sobbing, he thus begins to him.

Oh sweete Husband, will you not leaue mee? Will you thus depart from mee, and from your louing Children, which knowes not when we shall see you againe, or whether you shall euer come home againe or no. Alas sweete Husband goe not, Carry with vs still, if you leaue vs, wee are bitterly vndone.

Altho' shee ~~the~~ life (saith hee) will waite me not from this enter-
prise: to which concerns my credite and alleageance; for it is our
Princes commaundement, and I must obey: but be you well
assured, I will not be long from you (if it please God.)

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Thus doth hee commaund quiet her in the best sorte that he can, and be she neuer so importunate, be her teares neuer so manie, her intreaty neuer so forcible, yet goe hee will, eschewing his renowne and duty to his Prince and countrey, more then wife and Children; although next to it, her estate and love thougth the best of all other. And at his departure, he recomends them to the care and curtesie of his chiefest friends. Yet some there be, whose tender hearts melt so easily with kind compassion, that one of their wifes teares, & the least of their intreats, will tye them so fast by the Legge at home, that they will not stirre one foote from her sweet side, neither for King nor Keyle, wealth nor hono^r. These are Cræmens, and unworthy to be called Gentlemen.

But to returne to this halloious and bzaue minded Gentleman, of whome wee spake before, it may bee, that either by the long continuance of this Prison, or by his misadventure, in being taken Prisoner, or some other losse, hee comes not home in foure or five yeares, and all that while there is no newes of him, you may be sure that his wife is a sorrowfull woman. A whole house charged with griefe, being thus deprived of her dayning spate, hearing nothing of his estate. But all things haue an end. And shee seeing that in so long time, shee can heare no tidings of him, doth peremptorily conclude that he is dead. Then considering to liue comfortles in this wifes estate, were an vncooth life, she determines to marry her selfe to some one, so some as conveniently she may, which will be soone enough; for a faire woman, if willing, can want no choyce. Thus her former sorrow is somewhat alaiue, and within a while after, cleane extinguish, by the fresh delights, pleasures, contents, and solace, which this newe choyce doth yelde. So that now her other Husband is wholly forgotten, her Children which shee had by him little regarded, and the Goods which belong to them, are spent on others, while the poore wretches, want things needfull, but not blowes & hard usage. To be short, the teares which she bestowed on her other husband at his departure is dried vp, her embraces vanished. And whosoever should see her with this second Husband, and what kindnes shee shewes vnto him, would
derily

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berily thinke that she loues him far better then she did the first, who in the meane while is either taken prisoner, or else fighting in extreame hazard of his life.

But in the ende it chanceth so, that by paying his Ransome, (if hee haue bene Prisoner,) home he comes, cleane changed through the many troubles he hath had: And being come some what more, failes not to enquire of his Wife and Childzen, for hee is in great feare, that they are either dead, or in some great distresse. And doubtles in the time of his imprisonment of other dangers, hee haue oft thought, oft dreamed of them, and hee for toiled for them, oft besought God to preserve and bless them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when he was in the others armes, toying and dallying, and in the midst of her delights,

Well, enquiring (as before said) heares that she is married againe, then Iudge you what in what griefe her heart is. But his griefe is bootlesse, for now the matter is past remedie, if he haue any care of his credit, any regard of his estimation, hee will neuer take her more, though perhaps the other, hauing had his pleasure of her, could be well content either to restore her to him, or to leaue her to any one else.

She on the other side is utterly shamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproch, and neither hee nor she can marry whiles they liue. Their poore Childzen are likewise grieved and shamed at their Mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens, that for the wrong cause, the Husband being caliginous, doth quarrel, & perhaps combat with him, who being better then himselfe, doth either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof, spring from their Wives pride, because (forsooth) she will take the wall of the others wife, or sit above her, whome she will in no wise suffer, nor lose an inch of her estate, and her poore Husband must together by the eares.

Thus the supposed blessednes which hee expected by plugging himselfe in Lobs- Daund, is turned into sorrow, trouble, danger, and continuall discontent while life doth last.

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CHAP. XIII.

The humor of a Woman that hath
bene twice married.

There is another humor belonging to a Woman, which is, when a Young man (having found the way into Lobbes Pound,) marries with a Wife of like yeeres, fresh, lustie, faire, kinde, and gracious; with whom she hath lived two or three yeeres, in all delights, loves, and pleasure, that any married couple could have; neuer did the one displease the other; neuer soule words past betwixt them, but they are almost still colling and billing each other, like a couple of Doves. And Nature hath framed such sympathy betwixt them, that if the one bee ill at ease or discontented, the other is so likewise. But in the midst of this their mutuall love and solace, it chanceth that she dies, whereat her grieues so extremely, that hee is almost beside himselfe with sorrowe: hee mournes; not onely in his Apparell, for an outward shewe, but unsaindly in his very heart; and that so much, that hee shunneth all places of pleasure, and all companie, lives solitarily, and spends the time in daily complaintes and moanes, and bitterly bewailing the losse of so good a wife, wherein no man can iustly blame him, for it is a losse worthy to be lamented, and a felwell, which who sooner hath, is happie (but this happines is very rare.

To be short, his thoughts are all on her, and she so firmly printed in his minde, that whether he sleepe or wake, shee seemes alwayes to be in sight, but as all things hath an ende, so hee had sorrowe. After a while, some of his Friends having spied out a second match, which as they thinke is very fitte for him, doe prevaile so much with him, through her persuasions, that he accepts it, and marries himselfe againe, but not as before, with a young spawse, but with a lusty widow, of a middle age, and much experience, to he by the tryall which she had of her first Husband, knowes how to handle the second: but that she may doe it the better, she doth not presently discover

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discouer her humors, till shee haue thoroughly marked how hee is inclined, what his conditions are, and what his nature is: which finding it mild, and kind, & very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a sole in) hauing now the full length of his sole, then shee sees shee her selfe what she is, vnmasking her dissembling malice: her first attempt is to vsurpe Superiortie, and to become his head, and this shee obtaines without any great difficultie, for there is nothing so lauish as a simple and well-natured young man, being in subiection, that is married to a **Widowe**, especially if she be, (as the most of them are) of a peruerse and crabbed nature. I may very well compare him to an **unfortunate wretch**, whose ill happe is to be cast into some strong Prison, vnder the keeping of a most cruell and pittilesseaylor, that is not moued to compassion, but rather to great rigour, in beholding the miseries of this poore wretch, whose onely refuge in this distresse, is to pray vnto God, to giue him patience to endure this crooke, for if he complains of his hard usage, it will increase his pious woefe.

But to proceede: This solitary **Widowe** will within a while growe zealous, feare and suspect that some other Dame hath part of that which shee so earnestly desireth, and wherewith shee could neuer be satisfied, so that if shee giue not her insatiable humors, straightway shee conceiveth this opinion: If he doe but onely talke, nay, (which is worse) looke on any other **Woman**, for shee by her good will would be alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his companie: For as to the fish which hauing bene in water, that through the heate of the Sommer is halfe dreyed vp, beginnes to sticke full of mudde, seeks for fresher water, and hauing found it, doth willingly remaine therein, and will in no wise returne to his former place: Euen so an olde **Woman**, hauing gotten a young man, will cling to him like a fly to an Elme.

But on the other side, a young man cannot loue an olde **Woman**, howsoeuer shee doth dissemble, neither is there any, that more endangers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinketh musty wine, who if hee be thirsty,

feels

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saies nothing whiles hee is drinking, but at the ende of his draught, hee saies such a displeasing talke, that it doeth almost turne his stomacke.

But if Young-men in no wise can fancie old Women, what leue thinke you young-Women can beare to olde men, when behides the sundry imperfections of their Age, which are so loathsome, that it is impossible for a fresh young tender Damself, (be she neuer so vertuous) to endure their companie, much lesse the kisses and embraces of the person which hath them; All the lusty Gallants thereabouts will not faile to vse whatsoeuer deuises and meanes possible for the buying of the old Dotard; hoping that they will be easily wonne to wantonnes: and surely they ground this hope on great likelyhood; For such it is no difficult exploitte to grasse the like kindnes on a Young-mans forehead, who is able in farre better measure to sate his Wiues appetite, and shee hath therefore more cause to bee true to him; if may surely same no great matter to performe the like piece of seruice with this other vnforsunate Dame.

But now to returne to our Young-man, yoakt (as before I said) to this old Widow, I thus conclude, that his estate is most miserable: For besides the danger of his health, and besides the subiection, nay, rather seruitude which hee liues in, this third euill, (I meane his wiues zealousie) is alone an intolerable torment vnto him; So that he neuer so quiet, neuer so desirous to content her, neuer so fearefull to displease her, yet cannot hee ayoyd her brayles, obiections, and false accusations of leaudnes and disloyaltie; for an olde Woman infected with zealousie, is like a hellish furie.

If hee goe to any of her friends about businesse, yea, to the Church to serue God, yet will shee alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that hee playes false, though indeede hee be neuer so continent; who whatsoeuer he pleadeth in his owne defence, yea, though hee proue himselfe blamelesse, by such reasons as shee can by no reason confute, yet will not all this satisfie her: such is the peruersenesse of her stubbozne, crabbed, and malicious nature, made worse by Dudge and raging zealousie; for being priuie to her owne defectes, and knowing that hee

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he by reason of his youth and handsomen may perchance fall in
favour with a young dame, thinking withall that a young man,
when he may haue such a match, will be loth to leaue it for a
woyle, or preferre slower verince befoze swate wine. So he con-
cludes peremptorily in these suggestions as befoze. Doe heere
the issues of this asses turning into Labs pound, & intangling of
himselfe againe, when he had once gotten out to his former li-
bertie, which if he once moze loke for, he is mad; for he must
know perforce continue there while life doth last, which by this
meanes will be farre longer, and he loke farre older, hauing
more but two yeares married with this oldecrib, then if he had
liued ten yeares with a young wife.

CHAP. XV.

The humor of a young woman giuen ouer to all
kind of wantonnesse.

There is yet another humo; that a woman is subiect to,
which is, when an vnfortunate yong man hauing long
laboured to get into Labs pound, and hauing in the end
obtained his desires, doth match himselfe with a lissie wanton
young wench, which without feare of him, or care of her
owne credit, takes her pleasure freely, and withall so over-
boldly, and brauisedly, that within a while her husband
perceiues it, who thereupon being not a little incaged, doth
in the heats of his impatience, after much bratling on both
sides, roughly and desperately threaten her, thinking there-
by to terrifie her, and make her honest by compulsion: But
that makes her woyle, for whereas befoze she did it for wanton-
nesse, now will she doe it for despight: and what with
the one and the other, be so inflamed, that were she fure to
be hilled for it, yet would she not leaue it: which he percei-
uing, watching her doings so narrowly, that in the end he
saw her swate heart come closely to his house, then being on
fire with furie, runnes hastily to surpris him, and enters his
wifes chamber with full purpose to kill him, though he had

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ten thousand times. But iudge you in what a taking the yong
yong man is in; saying himselfe thus surprised, and looking fo;
nothing else but present death, because he hath nothing to de-
fend himselfe. But the fo; whose sake he hath incurred this
danger, loseth kindly free him by this stratagem, fo; as her
husband is ready to strike or stab him, she catcheth him hastily
about the middle, crying out, Alas man what doe you meane?
While she thus staies her husband, the yonger betakes
him to his heels, running downe the staires amaine, and
out of the doores, as if the Diuell were at his taile, and
after him the good man as fast as he can dyne. But when
hee sees that he cannot ouertake him, hee turnes backe in
a like rage, to wreake his anger on his wife. But she
dreading as much, gets her hastily (before his returne)
to her mother, to whom shee complaines of his cause-
lesse suspicion, and diuellish furie, iustifying her selfe, as if
she were not the woman, that would commit so leaud a part:
But her mother sitting the matter narrowly, her daughter
confesseth her fault, but to make it seeme the lesse, shee
tels her a large Tale of the yong mans importunitie,
who fo; so long time together, did continually trouble
her, and whether soeuer shee went, hee would be sure to
follow her, begging pittifully her loue and fauour, that she had
often sharply answered him, and flatly denied his sute, yet
could she not fo; all that be rid of him: so that in the end, she
was inforced fo; her owne quietnes to graunt his request. So
he repeates withall, how kindly and intirely he loues her, how
much he hath bestowed on her, how many soule iournies he
hath had fo; her sake, in rains and snow, as well by night as
day, in danger of thæues, in perill of his life, and how narrow-
ly he escaped her husband the last time, so that fo; very pittie
and compassion, she was moued to fauour him, and no woman
could be so hard harted, as to suffer so true and kind a yong
man to languish fo; her loue, and die disregarded: fo; on my
life mother (saith she) if I had not yielded, he would haue dyed
fo; thought.

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The mother hearing her Daughter to say thus, accepts her to answer for currant, and thinks that she hath sufficiently injured her selfe; but to prevent further scandale, and to appease her angry soune in Law, and reconcile her Daughter vnto him, she by casting a mist before his eyes, she takes this course, she sends for her speciall Gossips and Companions, whose counsels in such like cases, shee doth vse: They comming at the first call, and being all assembled, either before a good fire (if it be Winter) or in a greene Arbo, (if it be Sommer) one of them noting her daughters heauy countenance, demaunds the cause thereof: Marie, say (saith she) she hath had a mischaunce, about which, I haue made bolde to trouble you, and craue your aduice: With that she recountes the whole matter vnto them, but shewing the true cause of her Husbands anger: To be short, she hath ready two or three pottles of Wine, and a fewe Zunkes, which they presently take aboord on, that they may the better giue their seuerall verdicts afterwards; meane while they comfort the yong woman, bidding her assure her selfe, that her Husband is moze perplexed then they are, and that I know by mine owne experience, for my husband and I were once at variance, but he could neuer be quiet til we were made friends. In good faith Gossip (saith another) so serued I mine. Another makes a motion to send for the yong Gallant, that is so true a louer to her Gossips daughter, that his presence may cheere her, and rid away her melancholly.

This motion doth her mother faintly contrarie, but in the end most voyces preuaile, he is sent for, and comes with a friend, then there is much good chat, made a repproach and kinde scoffs giuen the yong Husband: And to mend the matter comes in the Chamber maide, who was priuie to all the former close packing betwene her mistress and her swaite heart, and for her silence and imployment, in furthering both their contents, shee hath gotten a good new Coluene, and somewhat else.

It may bee her Mother hath sent her abroad about some businessse, or perhappes she copnes an excuse of her selfe, thereby onely to make a steppe abroad to see her mistress, and to bring her some newes how all things goes at home: So her hath no sooner set her foote within the come where they are, then one

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of them askes how her maister doth: my maister (saith she) I neuer saw a man in that taking: I dare say that since yesterday morning when this misfortune happened, he hath not eaten one crum, dranke one drop, or slept one winke all yesternight. To day he sat downe to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth, but could not swallow it, so he spit it out presently, and sat a good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knife on the table, he rose hastily, and went into the garden, and immediately came in againe: To be short, he is altogether out of temper, and can rest no where: he doth nothing but sigh and sob, and he lookes like a dead man: hereat they laugh apace, and to be short, they determine that two of the chiefe of them, shall goe and speake with him the next morning, and that when they are in the midst of their talke the rest shall come in afterward. The mother with her two Gossips, according to this plot doe proceede in the matter. And next morning finding him in his dumps, one of them gently askes him what he ayles: hereto he answeres onely with a sigh: whereupon she takes occasion thus to speake. In god saith gossip I must chide you, my gossip your wiues mother told me I know not what of a disgracement betwene your wife and you, and a certaine fond humor; that you are fallen into: I wis I am sorry to heare it: And before God you are not so wise as I had thought you had bene, to wrong your wife thus without a cause, for I durst lay my life there is no such matter. By this good day (saith another) I have knowne her ever since she was a little one, both maide and wife, and I neuer saw but well by the woman: And in god sooth it grieues me to the very heart, that her name should now come in question without cause: Before God, you have done the poore woman that disgrace, and so stained her good name, that you will never be able to make her amends. Then steppes in the chamber-maid with her five egges. In god saith (saith she) I know not what my maister hath sene, or whereon he doth ground his suspicion, but I take God to my witness, that I neuer saw any such matter by my mistress, and yet I am sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as soon as an other. Gods body Woe (saith she, all thrages) wilt thou
face

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see me do one of that which my selfe saw? Ah Gossip, (quoth one of the Dames) God forbid that every man & woman which is alone together should doe euill. I denie not (saith the Chambermaide,) that the villainous Rascal hath long sued vnto my Mistresse for such a matter, but by my honest Maister, I know that there is neuer a man alliue to whom she hates more: and rather then she would commit any such follie with him, she would see him hangd, and be burned her selfe: I maruell how the Devil will be got into the house.

Here the other Gossips come in, one after another, and each giues her deuice: In good faith (Gossip saith one) I thinke, that next your wife, there is neuer a woman in the world that loues you better then I doe: and if I knew or thought any such matter, I would not let to tell you of it. Surely (saith another) this is but the Devils work to set them at variance, for he cannot abide that Husband & Wife should liue well together. In good faith saith the third, the worse woman doth nothing but weape. By Christ, (quoth the fourth) I feare it will cost her her life, she grieues and takes on in such sort. Then comes the Mother weeping and crying out, making as though shee would scratch out his eyes with her nailes; exclaiming in this sort.

Ah cursed Caitiffe, woe worth the houre that euer my Daughter matcht with thee, to be thus shamed and slandered, and haue her name spotted without cause. But shee is well enough seru'd, that would take such a base Churle, when she might haue had sundry good Gentlemen. Ah good Gossip (saith another) be not out of patience.

Ah Gossip (saith shee) if my Daughter were in fault, by our good Lord I would kill her my selfe. But thinke yet I haue no cause to be moued, when I see my childe, being guiltles thus vex'd: With that shee sings out of doores in a rage, and all the Gossips come vpon him thicke and thicke, who is so full of sundrie thoughts, and so grieued and troubled, that hee knowes not whereon to resolue, nor what to say.

In the ende they groweing somewhat calmer, promise, if hee will, to undertake the reconciling of him and his Wife, which

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hee most earnestly desireth them to doe.

They accordingly performe it, so that all controuersies are ended, all strife ceased, the matter bushed vp, and his wife taken home againe, who taking greater courage by the success of heret, and being now cleane past shame, will growe farre boldder in her villainy then before. And her poore Peacocke, on the other side, hauing his courage thus quailed, will neuer afterwards fall at oddes with her, for feare of the like storme, but will suffer her to haue her owne saying in all things, and be in a manner subiect to her, spending the remnant of his life,

in care, feare, discontent and griefe, his Goods wasting he knowes not how, and himselfe become a laughing stocke to all that knowes him.

FINIS.

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